

# Supreme Court asked to void power law

STORY  
ON PAGE A2

## Veep wants to send Pinoy cops to Sydney

BY TJ BURGONIO AND BETH PANGO-FRIAS  
VICE President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona wants to send a team of investigators to Australia to help solve the brutal murder of three members of a Filipino-Australian family.  
Guingona has raised the matter with officials of the Australian Embassy in Manila and is VEEP/ A7

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PHILIPPINE DAILY  
**INQUIRER**  
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 2001 ★★ 52 PAGES 4 SECTIONS VOL. 16 NO. 220 P15

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SERIOUSLY now, what is the real state of the nation? Or, so President Macapagal appears to be saying to Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes after conferment rites for masteral graduates in national security administration of the National Defense College held in Malacañang on Tuesday.

# Police to do a Basilan in Metro Manila

Crackdown  
on kidnappers,  
'kotong' cops

4 more Abus  
fall in Basilan

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA  
AND TONETTE OREJAS

THE CRACKDOWN on Abu Sayyaf members and supporters in the South will be replicated by the Philippine National Police, this time on kidnapping-for-ransom syndicates in Metro Manila.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday gave PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza "strong marching orders" to focus on kidnapping syndicates and kotong (muling) cops in the next two weeks.

"(Mendoza) said there would be a similar version of the (Armed Forces') offensives against the Abu Sayyaf in the next two weeks. They will be producing results, there will be arrests," Rigoberto Tiglao, spokesperson for the President, told reporters after a lengthy Cabinet meeting yesterday.

Tiglao said there would be no warrantless arrests because the police had built a dossier on the kidnapping-for-ransom syndicates that had been under surveillance for the past two months.

"(The police) said this would be a renewed offensive... They have pinpointed certain kidnapping gangs and they expect major arrests in the next two weeks," he said.

"There would be no (zoning), just an equivalent of what is being done in Basilan, which means they will be arresting people against whom they have built a lot of intelligence data," he added.

As though to set the tone, intelligence agents arrested four Indians, all suspects in three cases involving a large kidnapping-for-ransom syndicate in Central Luzon, in separate operations in Tarlac and Pampanga last week.

Reports from the Bureau of Immigration and the National Bureau of Investigation identified

ISABELA CITY, Basilan—Four more suspected Abu Sayyaf members and supporters were separately arrested on Monday, bringing to 37 the total number of persons apprehended in the province since the government launched its crackdown on the bandit group last week.

Maj. Alberto Gepilano, civil-military operations officer of the Joint Task Force Comet, said the four were undergoing tactical interrogation at the 103rd Army Brigade headquarters here.

In Davao City, Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said military men coddling the Abu Sayyaf would be the next target.

Adan said members of the Philippine National Police were among those earlier arrested in

the crackdown. "Of the 54 arrested Abu Sayyaf supporters, some are policemen. Then we will go to the military," he said.

In Manila, President Macapagal-Arroyo assured the people that the Abu Sayyaf would be dismantled "in a matter of time."

"I know that progress in... Basilan and Sulu can only come if we destroy the enemies of peace and order. The Abu Sayyaf and their cohorts are the Filipino people's enemy," the President said in a speech at yesterday's conferment rites of Class 36, Master in National Security Administration, of the National Defense College of the Philippines in Malacañang.

"They are on the run and soon 4 MORE/ A18

## Peso tumbles to 53.95 against the US dollar

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE PESO yesterday tumbled to 53.95 against the US dollar, its lowest level under the Macapagal administration, amid calls for the central bank to intervene aggressively to check the slide.

Banko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura, however, ruled out intervention and raising interest rates as options to defend the peso.

Analysts said the BSP had little choice but to

let the peso fall given the formidable array of domestic and external forces ranged against the local currency, like the Basilan hostage crisis, budget deficit and fears of repercussions from Argentina's financial crisis.

The peso hit an intra-day low of 53.955 against the US dollar on the spot market. Volume remained light at \$49.5 million, down from \$50.4 million on Monday when the peso closed at 53.71.

Currency watchers said the tight supply of

PESO/ A19

## Senate, House still squabbling on leadership

BY JULIET JAVELLANA,  
ARMAND N. NOCUM  
AND ROCKY NAZARENO

DISTRESSING is the state of both Houses of Congress five days before it opens on Monday.

There are four unyielding aspirants in the ruling People Power Coalition (PPC) for the presidency of the Senate. The standoff could split the coalition wide open giving the opposition party the opportunity to seize the top post.

The same thing could happen in the Lower House where top officials of two parties allied with the PPC are contending for the speakership: Rep. Florencio Abad, president of the Liberal Party, and Rep. Jose de Venecia, secretary general of Lakas-NUCD, the party of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

This may be why despite her insistence not to interfere in the leadership fight in Congress, President Macapagal will meet with the contentious candidates before the 12th Congress opens.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said in a radio interview yesterday that the President remains confident the administration bets will make it.

The President herself may have added to the

SENATE/ A18



AND the winner is Sen. Juan Flavio for Sen. Loren Legarda during another meeting of senators belonging to the People Power Coalition including Senators Ralph Recto, Kiko Pangilinan and Manuel Villar, to resolve the divisive issue of leadership.

VAL HANDUMON

## Gov't agents arrest 2 alleged ABB leaders

BY CARLITO PABLO

TWO SUSPECTED leaders of a communist splinter group reportedly allied with deposed President Joseph Estrada were arrested last Monday in Quezon City for allegedly planning to sow disorder during President Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address (Sona) on July 23.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos identified the two as Danilo Singh, alleged national com-

mander of the urban hit squad Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB) and secretary of the Partido Marxista-Leninista ng Pilipinas (PMLP), and Rolando Marcelo, alleged head of the PMLP's education department.

Singh is also known as Roland and Bombay while Marcelo is known as Joel, according to the Army chief.

Sources said Singh and Marcelo were arrested because PMLP was allegedly joining rallies of the sup-

GOV'T/ A18

## No budget for 2002 in GMA 'Sona'

BECAUSE of the financial jitters, President Macapagal-Arroyo will not be able to submit the proposed budget for next year to the 12th Congress when it opens on Monday, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin yesterday said.

The President is scheduled to deliver her first State of the Nation Address (Sona) before the joint session of the Senate and the House of Representatives on July 23.

"We cannot submit a budget proposal for the Sona because we do not want to be in a hurry. Because of these financial jitters, we want to submit a very realistic budget," Boncodin said in a radio interview.

Boncodin said she told Ms. Macapagal that the budget proposal could be submitted two weeks after the Sona.

The budget secretary said that under the law, the budget proposal could be submitted one month after the opening of the regular session of Congress.

Boncodin said the Ramos administration was able to submit a

NO/ A18







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## LIBYA FOLLOW-UP Talks to resume in KL

DIGOS CITY—Peace talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front are to resume in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur next week, MILF spokesman Eid Kabalu said.

The second round of negotiations will begin on July 24 "and could last for one or two days, depending on the developments," Kabalu said.

Negotiators from both sides would work out specific details of a landmark truce signed in Libya last month, Kabalu said.

They would also try to hammer out guidelines for the selection of members of an Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) "monitoring team" provided under last month's agreement, he added.

Kabalu said that like the first round in Tripoli last month, the Kuala Lumpur negotiations would continue to be "open-ended."

"We do not know how long these negotiations could go on, but we are determined to find a peaceful solution to the Bangsamoro problem," Kabalu said.

### Independence issue

Kabalu declined to confirm reports that independence would be among the issues the MILF would present to the government panel, chaired by Undersecretary Jesus Dureza, the presidential assistant for regional concerns-Southern Mindanao.

Earlier, Dureza said the MILF could always bring up the issue but the government's response would be, as always, to abide by the Constitution and the guidelines set down for the talks.

Kabalu said independence remains at the top of the MILF agenda but the peace talks were not tied to it.

"The MILF, being the voice of the Bangsamoro, only acts as the messenger of sentiments. If the Bangsamoro people would choose other forms of government aside from independence, then we would oblige," Kabalu said.

He said the MILF has no qualms about agreeing to autonomy, which was accepted by the Nur Misuari-led Moro National Liberation Front, "as long as it is real and reflects the sentiments of the people."

### Ceasefire

On June 22, the government and the MILF signed a ceasefire deal in the Libyan capital of Tripoli.

The deal would allow the introduction of economic development in Mindanao and rehabilitation of areas devastated by a massive military assault against the MILF last year.

Troops would also be pulled out from the MILF's main camp, overrun by the military, while several "working committees" are to be established to oversee implementation of the accord.

Kabalu said a protracted hostage crisis involving the Abu Sayyaf would not be on the agenda of the talks, although the MILF has expressed concern over the military's massive arrests of alleged rebels and sympathizers in recent days.

The Abu Sayyaf is holding 21 US and Filipino hostages on Basilan island.

The Armed Forces have accused MILF members of aiding Abu Sayyaf rebels trying to escape a massive military operation.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has given troops powers to arrest suspected Abu Sayyaf members and supporters in a bid to end the hostage crisis.

More than 50 people have been detained since Friday, of whom 34 have been charged, with the rest freed on lack of evidence, officials said.

### Desecration

Kabalu said the MILF had received reports of soldiers desecrating mosques and randomly picking up male civilians in Muslim-populated villages.

"This is very, very alarming. We are closely monitoring and documenting the situation just in case we may be compelled to present them to the government peace panel," Kabalu said. "But that's not yet on the agenda, and we are having these reports verified."

Meanwhile, three persons were killed on Monday when MILF rebels clashed with government soldiers in Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao province.

The skirmishes forced the military securing portions of the Cotabato-General Santos highway to close the road for about 10 hours.

"We have to close the highway to prevent injuries to commuters," Maj. Julieta Ando, 6th Infantry Division spokesperson, said.

Ando said soldiers clashed with the rebels in Shariff Aguak. Allan A. Naval, Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie C. Seisase, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and AFP

## Gloria to visit Malaysia for 1st foreign trip

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will make her first foreign trip with a visit to neighboring Malaysia next month to discuss economic and security cooperation, officials said yesterday.

Ms Macapagal is also scheduled to visit five other Asian countries, including China and Japan, this year, officials said.

The President will meet with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, King Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah and other top officials in Kuala Lumpur during her Aug. 7-9 visit, Philippine and Malaysian officials said.

Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja said her discussions will focus on economic cooperation and ways to expand investment.

She is also expected to tackle security issues and convey her thanks for Malaysia's support for peace talks between the Philippine government and the Muslim separatist group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, Baja said.

The talks are to resume in Kuala Lumpur next week after an initial round of negotiations in Libya last month.

An area of concern between the two Asian nations is security along their common border, which is prone to intrusions by smugglers, pirates, illegal fishermen and Muslim guerrillas.

Last year, members of the Philippine Muslim extremist group, the Abu Sayyaf, crossed into Malaysia and abducted scores of foreigners and workers in a dive resort and took their captives back to Jolo island. Both countries have intensified joint patrols since then.

Ms Macapagal will also visit Brunei and Singapore from Aug. 22 to 26, then visit Japan for three days starting Sept. 12, Baja said. She will attend the annual summit of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in October in Shanghai.

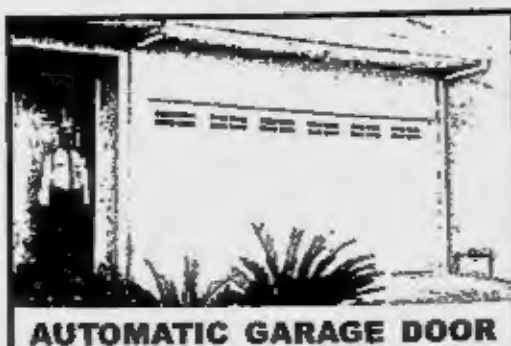
Baja said a trip by Ms Macapagal to Thailand has been scheduled in November but no date has been fixed. In January, Arroyo will be in Davos, Switzerland, for an economic conference, then she plans to proceed to Britain, he said.

She was swept to power in January when her predecessor, Joseph Estrada, was toppled amid street protests over allegations of massive corruption.

She has spent most of her time dealing with a series of crises, including a failed attempt to oust her and the kidnapping of dozens of people, including three Americans, by the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan. AP

### ERRATUM

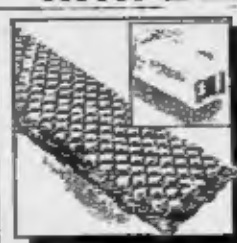
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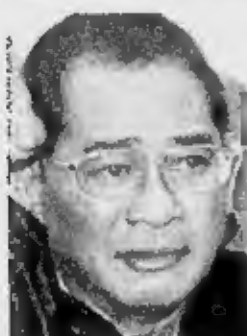
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BENIPAYO

# Long, slow count enters 3rd month

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

TWO months and still counting.

The Commission on Elections' canvassing for the senatorial and party-list elections entered its third month yesterday with no clear indication yet on when the poll body will be able to complete the count.

The Comelec started canvassing the certificates of canvass for the senatorial and party-list votes at the Philippine International Convention Center on May 17, three days after the elections. Two months later, the Comelec is still counting. "This is the longest election count ever," noted former Immigration commissioner Rufus Rodriguez, lawyer for Sen. Loi Ejercito who

filed four petitions questioning 180,000 votes for Sen. Ralph Recto.

"It's been more than two months after the senatorial canvass began on May 17 yet the Comelec has not even determined who are the 12th and 13th placers in the Senate race," Rodriguez said. "This is becoming the slowest count in history."

Asked in a recent news conference when the Comelec planned to wrap up the canvassing, Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo said the en banc had agreed to reconvene the National Board of Canvassers to resolve Rodriguez's petitions and at the same time correct discrepancies in the party-list canvass.

Benipayo, in an order issued last week, set a hearing on Rodriguez's four petitions today, or only four days before the opening of Congress.

## In limbo

The petitions were filed by Rodriguez between June 2 and June 19 but had gathered dust at the NBOC due to the delayed canvassing for Lanao del Sur and feuds among Comelec commissioners.

Thus, more than two months since the senatorial canvass began, the Comelec has yet to determine the final tally for the 13 winning senators in the May 14 elections.

In limbo is the final ranking of Recto and Sen. Gregorio Honasan, who are locked in a tight battle for the 12th position which carries with it a full six-year term. The eventual 13th placer would serve only for three years to complete the unfinished term of former Sen. Teofisto Guingona, now Vice President.

Recto and Honasan were in 12th and 13th places, respectively, when the 13 senators were proclaimed on June 4 but Rodriguez, in his third petition on June 19, revealed that Recto's tally as of June 4, which was 10,387,108, still included 30,000 padded votes, which the NBOC had ordered deducted in an earlier resolution.

Rodriguez asked the NBOC to deduct the 30,000 votes in Zamboanga del Norte from Recto and issue resolution stating that Honasan was 12th with 10,364,272 votes as of June 4, while Recto was 13th with 10,357,108.

The PnM also questioned a total of 150,000

votes which were allegedly padded in favor of Recto in 20 towns in Lanao del Norte, Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur.

Benipayo ordered Recto to file his comment within three "inextendible" days from receipt of the order except in the case of the third petition where Recto's lawyers have already filed an answer.

The NBOC had earlier granted Rodriguez's petitions questioning manifest errors in several provincial certificates of canvass which favored Recto.

## Vote padding

The NBOC, in Resolution 01-003, ordered the deduction of a total of 79,000 votes from Recto's total in the provinces of Tawi-Tawi and Zamboanga del Norte. Recto also lost 15,000 votes in Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat, after the NBC ruled that the town's COC be excluded because of massive padding of votes.

Benipayo said the NBOC will also hear petitions filed by several party-list groups for the correction of votes in the party-list canvass, particularly the one filed by Anak Mindanao (Amin) whose 83,090 votes in Tawi-Tawi went missing in the total votes for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Mujiv Hataman, Amin nominee, said if the 83,090 Amin votes in Tawi-Tawi were added to their total, they would have surpassed the two-percent minimum vote requirement to get a seat in the House of Representatives.

Hataman also asked the Comelec to look into a discrepancy in the Comelec canvass report which showed that there are 3.5 million more party-list votes than there were actual voters who voted in the party-list elections on May 14.

## History of education up at Silliman conference

SPEAKERS are invited to present papers for the Philippine National Historical Society's 22nd National Conference on Local and National History set on Nov. 15-16 at Silliman University in Dumaguete City.

The conference theme is "A Century of Education in the Philippines."

Implications for Nation Building," to commemorate the arrival of the "Thomasites" on Aug. 21, 1901, and the founding of Silliman University on Aug. 28 of that year.

Topics include the history of education and educational institutions (Spanish and American periods), the making of educational policy in the Philippines, mass education and good government, education and democratization, education and preservation of cultural values, as well as studies on local history (especially of the Visayas) and national history.

Inquiries may be addressed to Prof. Bernardita R. Churchill, PNHS president and national convener, at tel. 921-4575, telefax 926-1347, or e-mail [bnchurchill@hotmail.com](mailto:bnchurchill@hotmail.com) or [nita@csi.com.ph](mailto:nita@csi.com.ph).

The conference is the major annual activity of the PNHS, which was established in 1941 and is the oldest professional nationwide organization of historians in the country.

The PNHS is also a charter member of the Philippine Social Science Council.

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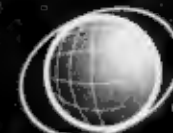
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# Racism 'very real' in Australia, says immigrant

By VINCENT CABREZA  
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Racism is a "very real" condition in Australia although it was magnified only recently by the massacre of Teddy Gonzales, his wife and their daughter.

Artist Santiago Bose aired this opinion in talking about the massacre of the Gonzalezes, who belonged to old Baguio families and who migrated to Australia after a killer earthquake hit the mountain city in 1990.

Bose, a native of Baguio and now a resident of Melbourne where he is raising a 5-year-old child, said that prejudice against Asian immigrants in Australia had been swelling since 1984, and that it was the shift to a conservative government that had made racism there "more

pronounced."

"The fact that Teddy was an immigration lawyer in a rich neighborhood made him a target," Bose told the INQUIRER.

"But life in Australia is different. Gun control is stricter, so there are few loose firearms. The neighborhoods are insured against theft so you rarely lock your doors. The massacre is a big story because a massacre is so much a personal crime. That makes racists there the usual suspects," he said.

Bose said news in Australia about the murders had been sparse and pieces of information offered by authorities were often filtered through the conservative media or the more liberal but less circulated newspapers from Sydney and Canberra, the government center.

"Maybe that's why the newspa-

pers immediately discounted the racial overtones. They did not want to spark the racism that was an issue in Australia in 1984," Bose said.

## 'Asianization'

In a June 1988 edition of Newsweek magazine, Australia was described as a frontier that was "freighting and arguing (about) its Asianization."

"Until 1973, Australia might as well have posted signs along the coastline: No Asians Need Apply," Newsweek said, adding:

"That year, the leaders in Canberra belatedly confronted the fact that their Asian neighbors were amassing formidable economic power... The rapid growth in the number of (Australia's) Asian immigrants (as a result of that economic growth) has given rise to white racism. Graffiti screaming 'Asians Out!' are a not uncommon sight in urban areas."

Bose said the Gonzalezes' case was one of the few violent attacks so far on Asians.

"Intolerance is very pronounced there because a traditional 'White Australia' culture still prevails," he said.

Another Baguio resident, who declined to be identified, said she was often rebuffed by Australians even during walks in the park.

"I would smile but I never got a smile in return. Maybe it is their culture, but I saw (the movie) 'Crocodile Dundee,' and (actor Paul Hogan) smiled a lot. I thought that was their way, too. I was wrong. I never felt welcome," said the resident, who flew home from Sydney last month.

## Political climate

Bose said it was the political climate and not individual sentiment, that was provoking much of the racial division.

He said Australia had been in the center of a political debate this year, after a "White Australia" proponent began earning support from Australian conservatives.

"The conservatives who want more

regulations on Asians come from the provinces. The Labor Party has more influence in the cities like Sydney and Melbourne," Bose said.

He added: "Most of our Filipinos are in the cities, where they have good jobs. But there are also Filipinos in Blacktown, an urban area where low cost housing is common. Filipinos feel that a change in government will suit

them better."

Baguio hosts a number of Australian expatriates who own thriving businesses.

"Most of these expatriates feel a little awkward about the murders and they do not want to aggravate it," said Elmer Lopez, a security consultant hired by a prominent Australian resident in the city.

## Veep wants ...

(From page A1)

awaiting their go-signal, sources at the Department of Foreign Affairs said. Lawyer Antonio Carameng, head of the DFA's Consular Assistance Division, confirmed this.

Immigration lawyer Teddy Gonzales, his wife Mary Josephine Lowiva and their teenage daughter Clodine will be buried on Friday in Sydney, to where they migrated in the early 1990s.

A week after the Gonzalezes' 20-year-old son Sef discovered the bodies in the family home in North Ryde, an upper middle class suburb in Sydney, the Task Force Tawna, a team of 20 special detectives, has yet to crack the case.

In an interview, Philippine Consul General Libran Cabactulan told the INQUIRER that Sef Gonzales and his next of kin had decided to bury his parents and sister in Sydney.

According to Cabactulan, there will be "no public viewing" of the bodies.

The consul general noted that detectives had yet to issue an official report on the motive and identity of the perpetrators after almost a week of evidence gathering and interviews with the victims' neighbors and friends.

"Normally, (the investigation) takes a little while. But in this case, the length of the investigation depends on the evidence gathered," he said.

Cabactulan said detectives were not zeroing in on one angle but were considering a wide range of angles, such as whether the murders were done by any of Gonzales' clients.

He also said Australian authorities were upset with local papers' reports quoting police as saying that Sef was probably home when his parents and sister were murdered on July 10.

The Australian had reported that police believe all four family members were together in their home between 5 and 8 p.m. on that day.

But the Canberra Times had said police believe that Sef joined his friends in the city around 8 p.m. and arrived home around midnight to find his parents and sister dead.

Copies of the reports, dated July 13, were faxed by the Philippine Embassy in Canberra to Manila on Monday.

"The police here said they were satisfied with Sef's willingness to cooperate with them in their investigation," Cabactulan said.

Police had theorized that mother and daughter were already dead when Teddy Gonzales came home around 7 p.m. after an hour-long drive from Blacktown, and that he too was killed after he disturbed the killers.

Lowiva, who worked at her husband's law office, knocked off from work around 5 p.m. July 10. Clodine was believed home all day that day.

On busy Kildare Road in Blacktown, passersby gawk at the second floor office in the modern red brick building across the street from the cinema.

Most everyone stops to read the name of the now dead occupant, whose name is spelled out in bold letters on the clear glass windows.

"That's the office of the murdered man in the news," said a middle-aged woman. "It's pretty eerie, isn't it?"

Early on July 11, Filipino accountant Oscar Clemente, who holds office next door to Teddy's office, received a call saying that the Gonzalezes were not coming to work "because they had an accident."

Clemente said he advised three or four of Teddy's clients waiting outside the lawyer's office to leave their messages and go home.

Later, Clemente was told of the "real accident," and he was stunned.

"I couldn't believe it... I was horrified," he said. "I saw him and Mary here every day. Ted and I often bumped into each other on the way to the toilet."

Another Filipino lawyer, Bernie David, who occupies another office on the same floor, said he saw Teddy the day before the murders.

"He seemed okay. He was talking about how our work often gets stressful, but he was okay," David said.

He also said the Gonzalezes were "very loving and always holding hands."

The family lived for a while in Blacktown, where Teddy started his law practice in a small office at home.

When his practice grew, he moved his office to the building on Kildare Road.

The family moved to North Ryde before Christmas last year.

Consul General Cabactulan said New South Wales police superintendent Ron Smith had given the Philippine government "full access to the case, but we could see that (the police) are facing a blank wall."

He said the police had admitted that the case had "a wider angle" which detectives were now looking into.

Earlier reports on the racial slur supposedly written in blood on a wall of the Gonzales home had no confirmation from the police, Cabactulan said.

"It is an issue but it is not a big deal especially here in Sydney," he said. "When you speak of racism, it could be true, but to translate it to murderous violence, I do not believe it is true. There has got to be a more solid explanation."

Community leader Lolita Farmer said she did not believe it was a racially motivated crime because there were "no facts to base it on."

Farmer, a practicing lawyer in Sydney, member of the NSW Law Society and president of the Philippine Community Council in NSW, said she also did not believe that the murders were an attack on the Filipino community.

"We are the envy of many ethnic communities because we are law-abiding citizens of this country," she said.

Farmer expressed some concern about the rising violence in Sydney, but not racial discrimination.

"This is the same because crime is not the race," she said. "We don't feel safe anymore even inside our homes."

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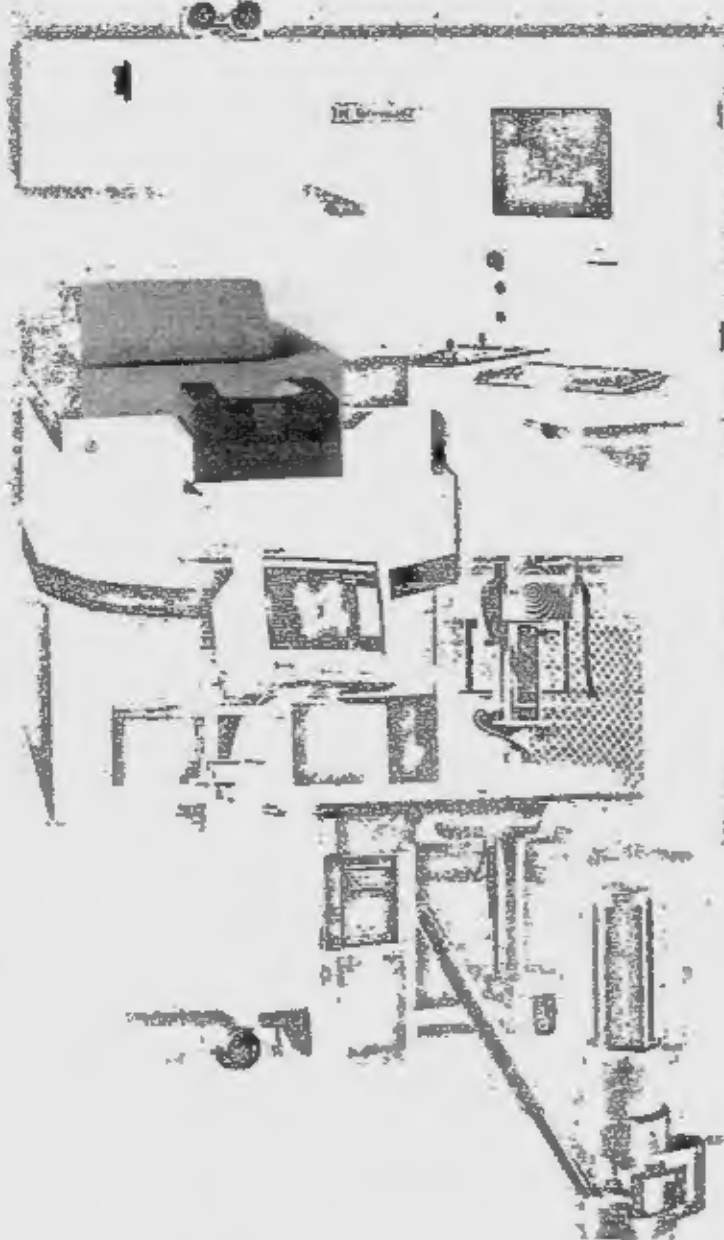
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## OPINION

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PHILIPPINE DAILY  
INQUIRER

Vol. 16 No. 220  
ISSN  
0116-2642

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at China Reyes Avenue (formerly Pasong Tama) corner Yegor and Mascardo Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1283 Makati City, Philippines • Our new telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments; Editorial Fax 897-4793, 897-4794; Advertising 897-4897; Circulation 827-33-42, 827-33-43, 828-91-93, 828-91-96 and 828-92-13, Fax 828-02-34.

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## Collateral damage

GOVERNMENT troops have rounded up dozens of suspected members and supporters of the Abu Sayyaf at the start of a campaign to crush what government spokespersons have described as "lawless violence" in the provinces of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi as well as Zamboanga City. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said these new operations are intended to flush out Abu Sayyaf bandits, confiscate their equipment and isolate their active supporters, including those who supply them with weapons, ammunition, food, information and sanctuary. "It's like cleaning the town of the contamination of the Abu Sayyaf," said Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar. Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, the military spokesperson, has an even more colorful metaphor for the operation: "We are draining the pond that supports the terrorist fish."

The problem is that, as any fishpond operator knows, draining the pond kills all kinds of fish, both edible and poisonous. Which is what seems to be happening there. By Tuesday, the government had to release 31 persons arrested during the raids after prosecutors found no evidence against them. A total of 41 suspects were to be charged with kidnapping for ransom or conspiracy to commit the crime. Adan said one those who were arrested in Basilan has been tagged as a leader of middle rank in the Abu Sayyaf organization with a P1-million reward on his head. Maj. Alberto Gepilano, civil-military operations officer of Task Force Comet, said four persons in military custody have been positively identified as Abu Sayyaf members. It seems that in the government's pond-draining operation, no big terrorist fish has been found stranded on dry land.

All this is hardly an acceptable batting average. The military is supposed to be working with a list of 200 bandits and their sympathizers, so why were so many innocent citizens inconvenienced and humiliated by being hauled off in trucks, with their hands tied behind their backs and detained in military camps? When one considers the embarrassment, the fear and the anxiety such arrests caused both to innocent civilians and their families, one must wonder about the justness of the campaign. And when one considers the resentment such injustice engenders, one must wonder about its wisdom.

Without doubt, the government has to wipe out the base of support of the Abu Sayyaf. Certainly it should put behind bars not only its members but also those who provide them arms, food and information. But this cannot be done by arresting anyone identified as a bandit or a sympathizer by hooded "spotters." With the government offering millions as reward for the arrest of key Abu Sayyaf personalities, the temptation is strong to point at anyone and everyone as a bandit leader. Besides there will be "informers" who will implicate others out of revenge or simple mischief.

There is still no substitute for good intelligence work. That's what enabled the military and the police to capture Nadzmic Saabudulla, alias Commander Global, the chief of staff of the Sulu faction of the Abu Sayyaf, and one of its intelligence agents.

What the government is doing is the judicial equivalent of carpet bombing when what is needed is a surgical strike. With the collateral damage mounting, the government ought to change its tactics before it loses the war for good. Injustice is always a rich breeding ground for rebellion.

## Crimes against humanity

THE TRANSFER of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to the UN tribunal in The Hague has given hope to survivors of a decade of Balkan wars that they may yet see answers to questions about some of the worst atrocities committed in Europe since World War II.

## FOREIGN COMMENT

Alfredo Astiz, the so-called "blond angel of death" one of the most infamous death squad leaders during Argentina's dictatorship of the 1970s has been arrested in Buenos Aires at the request of an Italian judge, and a court in Belgium agreed to take a case against Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who is being pursued by survivors of the 1982 Sabra and Shatila massacres.

What the Pinochet, Sharon and Astiz cases have in common is that the significant, but painfully slow progress that has been made in the cause of truth and justice is the result only of painstaking campaigns by individual victims, principled judges and human rights campaigners. If matters were left up to world governments, none of these cases would have been brought forward.

The Jordan Times (Amman, Jordan)

## OilEx an antidote to the local oil cartel

(Continued from yesterday)

## AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz



THE MOST callous and greedy cartel exploiting the Filipinos we already know very well: the oil cartel, the Big 3 of Shell, Caltex and Petron. Like the cement cartel, it must be stopped as the Constitution (Section 19, Article XII) mandates the government to do. It is the unholy alliance that has made life very hard for us. By periodically raising petroleum prices beyond what is fair, it has raised the prices of all other goods. It has raised transportation fares. It has raised the inflation rate and now workers are asking for a raise in pay.

The local oil cartel uses as excuse the rise in the price of crude oil dictated by the biggest cartel of all, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) and the falling peso exchange rate. But the Big 3 is cheating us all. When it raises prices due to these causes, it raises them several centavos above what is fair. And when it lowers its prices when conditions improve, it lowers them several centavos above what is fair. If you have paid attention to the computations made by the Oil Price Watch headed by Raul Concepcion, you would have noticed that the prices of the Big 3 are always higher than the Oil Price Watch prices. The latter's prices are what should be the fair prices of finished petroleum products. But going up or down, the Big 3 overprices its products. Although the overpricing is only several centavos per liter each time, that amounts to billions of pesos because of the big volume of fuel that we consume. And because the Big 3 has raised and lowered prices many times already, the overpricing has amounted to many pesos per liter. Moreover, when world crude prices rise, the cartel is quick to raise its own prices even if it is not yet selling products refined from the higher priced crude. But when crude oil prices go down, the cartel is very slow in lowering its own prices even if its members are already selling products

refined from the lower priced crude. The price of crude in the world market has fallen, but the local Big 3 announced that it does not contemplate lowering its prices. And the government is not doing anything about it. The government must know that the cartel is overpricing but its officials are either in cahoots with the Big 3 or it does not know what to do. It has tied its own hands with the Oil Deregulation Law. Deregulation was intended to encourage competition which is supposed to push prices down. But instead of competing, the new oil companies, which have only a 10 percent share of the market, have joined the Big 3 pricing because it is more profitable for them. Talk of opportunism.

During the last Congress, one representative tried to fight the oil cartel by filing a bill that would create a National Oil Exchange (OilEx for short) that would make deregulation and competition a reality. It would bid out to more than 40 oil refineries and traders in the world the petroleum needs of the Philippines. The lowest bidder gets the right to supply us. Thus, Filipinos would be assured of the lowest price possible in the world. But Rep. Enrique Garcia of Bataan, was like a lonely Don Quixote tilting at windmills. Few helped him fight the oil cartel.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo promised

to certify his OilEx bill as urgent to Congress provided he removed all its defects. That Garcia has done. He has filed a new bill in the House of Representatives (Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. has promised to push it in the Senate and Sen. Edgardo Angara, leader of the Senate opposition, has promised to support it) that is better and simpler than the original. In the original, the OilEx would buy the petroleum from the winning bidders, store them in storage tanks in Subic and sell them to the Big 3 and other distributors.

In the revised version, the OilEx would simply conduct the bidding. The volume that the OilEx will bid will be based mainly on our total requirements of refined petroleum products (RPPs), such as gasoline, diesel, lubricating oils, kerosene, aviation fuel, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), etc. After the bidding, the OilEx will award the volumes to the qualified winning bidders. The local marketing oil companies will then directly make arrangements with the winning refineries or traders for the payment and delivery of the volumes they submitted to the OilEx.

In the revised bill, the OilEx will be involved, in a very limited way, only in the refining/importing sector. It will not at all affect any aspect of the local marketing sector. Its only function is to bid (spot market) and/or negotiate (term contracts) our country's total requirements of RPPs to all oil refineries and traders in the world.

The cost of running the OilEx will be added to the cost of the RPPs. Even assuming that the cost of operation will reach P100 million a year (which is not likely), the amount would still be negligible, considering that it would add only one-half centavo (P0.005) to the price of a liter of gasoline.

(To be continued)

## Making a living with the dead

BIEN Calleja's letter, which I put out yesterday, reminded me of an experience I had not too long ago. No, it doesn't have to do with funeral parlors—thank God I have not had occasion to deal with them. It has to do with another way of making a living with the dead:

I've seen them before in obscure places in Metro Manila, wakes for the dead that last for weeks, with no one in attendance looking visibly overwrought. Indeed, with everyone in attendance wearing only a dark frown while seated in front of a mahjong table, delicately fingering the tiles racked up before them. Or crumpling the cards they hold in their hands near their chests. All this while 20-kilowatt light bulbs burn around a modest coffin, conspicuously displayed through an opened door or window of a hovel—an almost splendid thing amid squalid settings.

What's going on here of course, as most everyone knows by now, is the practice of hiring the dead to front for a gambling joint. That was one of the more memorable moments in "Live Show," quite incidentally, a small-time entrepreneur managing a not very small time gambling operation in the guise of a wake by renting dead bodies. For some reason, custom—Christian or not, I don't know—allows people in grief, or in vigil, to legally divert themselves by playing mahjong or pusa throughout the night. I don't know what the legal limit is to how long you can withhold the dead from the worms, but it has always seemed interminable to me.

Years ago, I used to pass by a small street in Muñoz on my way to the INQUIRER, which was still along United Nations Avenue at the time, and for some reason it never seemed to be without a dead. At first I figured that the street, which was home to an impoverished community, was home as well to disease and violence, which routinely claimed the lives of its residents. Even then though, I wondered if the coffins in hovels were not a drain on those households' meager resources. A more streetwise friend swiftly disabused me of my illusions.

Early this year, the practice came to the street fronting our housing project. Or so I suspect, there being a dead person in the neighborhood

## THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



that took a long time to bury. At least I figure there must be someone inside the coffin that was displayed prominently through an open door, light bulbs burning fiercely day and night. This was at the height of "Edsa III." At first I commiserated in my heart with the family of the bereaved, knowing how hard it is to lose a loved one. I lost my father when I was very young and the smell of tears and flowers always come back whenever I see a wake. But not after the way the people who attended the wake showed their grief. They promptly set up tables where they played pusa and mahjong, and were soon overrunning the street.

During the first days, or nights, of the wake, those tables were just confined to the sidewalk, which was already an inconvenience as it was a busy street where people going to and from their office walked past. Soon, however, the tables spilled out into the street, occupying half of it, which completely snarled traffic. The street, already clogged because SM North Edsa disgorged its customers into it, became bedlam on weekends, it also being home to a church, which held masses during Saturdays and Sundays. The gamblers soon pitched a tent over the gaming tables on the street, and hung incandescent lamps overhead to light up the place at night, when the gambling was at its fiercest. The *tolda* and the people moving in and out of them made the street virtually impassable from late afternoon when the playing began. To make matters worse, some of the organizers of what had obviously become an open-air gambling joint, nailed a board of wood on the street to serve as a hump, to slow down vehicles—which had already dropped to a crawl—and ensure the safety of the patrons on the street.

Either the dead was such a popular figure that he drew in a throng from far and wide, or he was making a lot of money for some people who were enterprising enough to embrace him as their own. Or, well, maybe he was a relative too, but his loved ones were loath to see him go without profiting from his departure. The occupation of the street and the frenzied gambling, which began from late afternoon and lasted till dawn, took place in plain view of the *barangay* officials and the cops who patrolled the area. I do not know that their sudden discovery of tolerance and liberalism owed to their newfound capacity to share the grief of the bereaved. Quite apart from the way the improvised gambling joint was messing up traffic, it was also giving rise to anxieties from residents that the crime rate in the area might shoot up. The characters that were congregating around the gambling tables were not altogether savory, nor did they wear a funeral look.

The wake lasted two weeks, such was the reluctance of the dead's love ones to see him go. It coincided with the aftermath of the May 1st riots in Mendiola. A couple of days after those riots, when people were free to devote their attention to new afflictions once again, the aforementioned dead was put to rest. The *tolda* in our street folded up, though I cannot say for sure never to be put up again. People have a way of dying plentifully these days and being mourned in this fashion doggedly. Even in our street.

Someone I know who has betted heavily in such a wake—a legitimate one, he hastens to add, the dead being the kin of a friend—has a cynical justification for the practice. At least, he says, the dead will have served a useful purpose in death, if not in life. I don't know. I've always thought myself that dying is not a reasonable excuse to inconvenience the living. Certainly, it is not a reasonable excuse for the living to use the dead to inconvenience the living. A great deal in us has died, or is dying, and I don't know how we can bring it back to life again.

You look at the characters in wakes like this, and you would be at pains to distinguish the living from the dead.



## Bruising policy clashes seen at G-7 summit

SINCE the advent of the George W. Bush administration in Washington, the United States has strode on the world stage flaunting its power, and antagonizing its European allies over a range of issues, and exacerbating tensions between the United States and China over missile defense policies.

As the Group of Seven industrial democracies, plus Russia, prepares to meet at its summit in the port city of Genoa at the weekend, the foremost threat to the G-7's unity comes from expected policy clashes between the United States and its allies over such issues as climatic change and alternative sources of energy to fossil fuels.

As if the collision threat is not enough, the Genoa summit will come under siege from thousands of anti-globalist activists who plan to protest against the world economic order without presenting an alternative program, except disrupting the summit with violence.

The violence in the siege of Seattle, Davos, Melbourne or Prague illustrates the disruptive capacity of the well-financed globalized NGOs which are run by jet-setters like the official delegations they rail against at the summit. It also demonstrates the closure of dialogue between the two antagonistic points of view about distribution of global resources and wealth. The alternative summits have also become a global industry, interlinked by the high-tech tools of the corporate world and governments. The Italian government has planned to use a ship, anchored off the harbor, as a venue for the summit.

If the channels of peaceful dialogue between the establishment delegations and the activists have been already closed, the stage for a collision between US triumphalism and its capitalist allies will even be more earth-shaking than the siege of the global activists whose agendas are as varied and contradictory as the NGOs.

Bush will come to the summit determined to show to the Europeans, the Japanese and the Russians who is boss in imposing the rules of economic, environmental and defense global order. But it is a comfort to know that some European monetary experts are predicting that the current US economic slowdown foreshadows the weakening of the dollar relative to the euro, the much-bellied European economic community's currency.

### ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



A bruising policy clash looms at Genoa over the Bush administration's opposition to European-backed proposals to phase out fossil fuel subsidies and increase financing for non-polluting energy sources.

In a report by The New York Times, which had access to the final draft of a G-7 task force, the draft called on rich nations to "remove incentives and other support for environmentally harmful energy technologies." The draft also encouraged them "to shift priorities of international lending agencies, like the World Bank, to support more clean energy projects in poor nations."

The proposals are contained in a report commissioned by the G-7. According to the Times, the proposals sought "to commit rich nations to help a billion people around the world get their power from renewable energy sources, like wind, water and the sun."

The Times reported that the White House said its opposition to the proposals was "based on a desire to let the marketplace, rather than government, decide how quickly renewable energy sources are adopted worldwide."

But administration critics have pointed out that the "marketplace" is a mantra to justify yet another example of the Bush administration's "placing the interest of oil and gas companies ahead of the drive to reduce global warming."

US opposition, the Times reported, could effectively prevent the G-7 from endorsing the proposals during the summit which works by consensus, without which proposals can be stifled. "People who helped prepare the report said that one important objective was to persuade wealthy nations to stop promoting fossil-fuel projects in the developing world, a step that could reduce sales of power plants, drilling equipment and other

goods used in producing energy from oil and coal," the Times reported.

While the Bush administration supports the idea of expanding use of renewable energy sources, the report said, it does not favor the task force's emphasis on government-to-government funding, an administration official is reported as saying. The official said the goal of a billion people relying on clean energy sources within a decade was a target that had "no analytical basis."

Critics said the rejection of the report was the "latest example of the Bush administration's undermining of international efforts to combat emissions of greenhouse gases." This followed the announcement by President Bush last spring that the United States had no intention of meeting the targets of the Kyoto treaty. The Kyoto Protocol sets targets for cuts in carbon emissions.

The US resistance to the G-7 proposals that seek to reduce dependence on fossil fuel-based projects throws a cloud over plans to use the Genoa summit to promote talks on global warming through the Kyoto Protocol.

Daphne Wysham of the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington said that, "By rejecting the task force's recommendations, President Bush is once again undermining any attempt to take serious action on global warming." A study by the institute and Friends of the Earth, an environmental organization, has found that export-promotion agencies of the rich nations, like the Export-Import Bank of the United States, are the world's largest public backers of fossil fuels.

The scale of the policy clash between Washington and the Europeans over environmental issues is illustrated by a United Nations conference at the weekend in Bonn, Germany, on the fate of the Kyoto Protocol. The Europeans are incensed over Bush's decision last March, proclaiming the treaty as dead. Bush has said the protocol does not deserve to survive. He said the treaty, which requires industrialized countries to cut greenhouse emissions by about 5 percent between 1990 and 2010 was "fatally flawed."

A meeting in Tokyo last week to persuade the United States to lessen its objections to the treaty hit an impasse. The United States rejected it on the basis that it was "unfair and too costly."

## Food scares and scams

### AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



rosy signals to future investors. Faith in the country's prospects deserves some reward.

But if we go by the calculations of both public and private health experts, even with the new manufacturing facility, any income derived from the tobacco industry is more than offset by the cost to the health system of diseases and ailments caused by smoking.

To put it another way, the government and the entire health sector spend far more to treat the consequences of smoking than it earns from cigarette taxes. Add to these calculations the cost in terms of people-hours lost due to absenteeism and chronic illness, to asthma attacks due to first- or second-hand smoke, or even to fires caused by untended lit cigarettes, and the equation gets even more skewed.

Who's making more economic sense, the trade secretary or the health secretary?

CIGARETTES aside, it also strikes me as funny how we get scared out of our wits and appetites by alarms raised abroad, but choose to ignore even more real scares right under our noses.

We swear off beef after the Mad Cow controversy, and now have struck off our grocery lists made-in-China soy sauce, oyster sauce and other condiments. But what about *taho*?

Unscrupulous makers of *taho*, or soya jelly, it has been reported, have been known to use plaster of Paris to hasten the jelling process. Does the plaster of Paris make its way out of our system, or does it settle in our intestinal crevices? And have you ever wondered under what sanitary conditions *bagoong* or *patis* is made? And did you know that among the ingredients used in commercial vinegar is hydrochloric acid?

I never did get to ride on the pearl shakes band-

wagon, and not just because they're spiked with sugar. My aversion can really be traced to an episode of "Imbestigator," which happened to deal with the complaints of workers in a *sago* sweatshop, but in the process showed exactly how these humongous "pearls" of sago are made.

Watching the men, who were made to sleep on the cement floor of the bodega or atop sacks of raw sago, presumably without benefit of a morning shower, "mix" the ingredients by churning them with their feet inside huge vats, I felt my insides squirm and squish. Ugh! I can't look at anyone slurping those pearls through those huge "PVC" straws these days without recalling the sight.

SPEAKING of queasy food, there seems to be an Internet scam circulating that purports to show Taiwanese enjoying the latest "gourmet" treat: human fetuses.

The images come prefaced by sincere-sounding appeals to stop this "inhuman" practice, although no one seems to be doing anything about it beyond scaring everybody else with the unsavory images. Downloaded, the images come in chronological sequence, showing smiling customers "buying" fetus packets, having them cooked, then served in what looks like a sizzling diner. The "fetuses" look like a singularly unappetizing slab of burnt meat. I don't know why anyone would pay good money for it, even if it were really a human fetus.

Would anyone engaged in this form of cannibalism go to all the trouble of posing for a photographer? For what reason? To advertise it?

The images "felt" familiar, and I recalled a similar Internet scam this time about female customers (allegedly of a popular pizza place) being videotaped while they used the ladies' room. The pictures felt much too posed to be credible, and the women "customers" looked Chinese, too. I suspect there's a group of pranksters, probably based in Taiwan, who specialize in staging and creating outrageous images meant to shock and create controversy. I've received the images twice now, and please, twice is two times too often. Enough already.

Comments are welcome at [rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph)

## Treasures in Mehan grounds

### LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



tan Theater. In his "Outline Review of Philippine Archeology by Islands and Provinces (1947)," those excavated deeply before the war "produced enormous collections of interesting ceramic and other materials from the old Chinese Parian of the late 16th and early 17th centuries. Little modern material, except in upper soil layers."

Half a century later, the National Museum with modern equipment and better-trained archaeologists can reexcavate the Jardin Botanico area to unearth pre-Spanish cultural materials. This is a possibility as Beyer was able to find, in other areas of downtown Manila, fossilized remains of the *Elephas maximus* (indicus) that makes you ponder how, when and why these great Indian elephants got to Manila in the first place.

From April to December 1952, Beyer was busy excavating in the basement of the Bureau of Science building in Manila where he had stored one-third of his archaeological collection at the beginning of the war. They could not recover the specimens there after the Battle for Manila in 1945 because the building was burned and later flooded with two to three feet of water. They waited three years for the water to drain and another two years for the place to become dry enough for work. As Beyer described the place:

"In brief, we discovered that the Japanese soldiers had dumped hundreds of our specimen boxes and trays into a long window, along one entire side of the [West wing] basement, and then covered them

with tons of dirt and sand—to form a barricade behind which they fought the attacking Americans. In places, this huge pile had been further disturbed and mixed up by bomb dispersal squads, after the fighting was over.

"We had to excavate nearly the whole pile, and it took us over eight months and cost me about 3,000 pesos for labor, containers, transportation etc. In return, we recovered over 400 boxes full of ceramic fragments, stone implements and other specimens that were not too badly damaged. There were also several hundreds of beads, bracelet fragments and other jewelry—but most of them had been melted or discolored by the fire, although some were still in fairly good condition. The importance of the collection is that it came from our Novaliches sites A, C and H—and contained about 75 percent of the bulk specimens from our Philippine early Iron Age collection...although all labels were of course destroyed, I have a very clear remembrance of the origin of the material—and I have been able to resort nearly 80 percent of it by sites."

"From one section of the pile we also recovered a large quantity (more than 60 boxes totaling over a hundred cubic feet) of the fine Middle Ming porcelain fragments originally excavated from the Post Office and Metropolitan Theater sites; and in another section we found some of the Sung porcelain fragments from the lake district. The pottery and porcelain fragments were, in general, in quite good condition—only a few of them being blistered by the fire or stained with iron rust. So our Bureau of Science excavation was really worthwhile!"

Again, mention of archaeological finds in the Jardin Botanico but the next question shall be where these Beyer artifacts are today.

Comments are welcome at [ambeth@admu.edu.ph](mailto:ambeth@admu.edu.ph)

## Power, arrogance and sex

HONOLULU—This just about sums up the essence of contemporary politics, not necessarily in that order. You can juggle the variables around, but however you define politics, you are bound to get one or two or three of the above in combination. Especially in a place like Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. where lies the seat of power.

We thought we were through with the sleazy saga of former intern Monica Lewinsky. She should consider herself lucky because at least she got out of it alive.

### COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

The current raging case of another former intern on the Hill, Chandra Levy, is once more titillating the public imagination, except that she may not be able to tell a grand jury her story. Her mysterious disappearance for several weeks now has not only raised alarm and suspicion, but the usual question about the vulnerability as well as expendability of women in the vicious circle of politics and powerful men. Was (or should that still be Is?) Chandra another naive, awe-struck young woman hoping to become important by dating a powerful representative old enough to be her father? Was she misled by her lover, who may have given the impression that he was going to marry her?

In the eye of the political storm is six-term California Rep. Gary Condit, who may not ring much of a bell on the Hill, but is a big "octopus" in his home district in central California. When his name first hit the headlines, there was a collective "Who?" from the national audience. It didn't take long for the story to unravel. And it would be a familiar story, resurrecting not only Bill Clinton but Gary Hart, Robert Packwood, Wayne Hays, Wilbur Mills and other once powerful men whose peccadilloes littered Capitol Hill.

Condit is 53, married and the son of a pastor in a family-values bastion of California, who is popularly known as a caring public servant concerned mainly with the welfare of the common folk. He is your "Mr. Nice Guy" next door ready to help anyone in distress. But in fact, that's just the exterior. There's some dark side beneath.

Gale Hammons, a writer for the Modesto (California) Bee, describes Condit as an "octopus" in his district, "enjoying a long, wide and deep reach," whose political machine "keeps a tentacle grip, behind the scenes, on local policy questions, election dynamics and candidate recruitment." He is at the helm of a political team that plays rough, according to Hammons, without remorse, intimidating real and potential opponents. "No one can beat him, so most people join him—which augments his power still more." That's politics in the raw. The joke is that Condit's approval rating is like God's when He gets around the district.

Seems like a Filipino invincible warlord politician who's there forever and ever? Hammons attributes Condit's "divine stature" to two factors, which are similar to the elements accounting for the persistence of warlordism in the Philippines. The first is extraordinary service to his constituency, which touches people in the gut. And he wasn't even an actor! If someone stopped by Condit's office with a runny nose, someone would hand over a tissue. Twelve years of that, notes Hammons, and you have an avalanche of loyalists. The politics of personal loyalty overwhelms whatever else you're thinking about the man. Did his followers know that Condit was or is a compulsive womanizer? More about this later.

The second reason is image, a carefully crafted PK job that has parlayed his humble beginnings to a seat in Congress with his handlers making sure that, despite his conservative "Blue Dog" Democrat credentials, Condit appeals to the broad political spectrum as a centrist. He has lasted this long with wide bipartisan support in his district.

In Washington, however, "Little Boy Blue" is actually a motorcycle-riding free spirit carousing in the Hill's vibrant nightlife, where you don't think you're 53 and over the hill. But reflecting on one level of understanding, not that his behavior should be condoned, who could blame him? Here is a guy living alone in his apartment, away from his family, and what is he to do on Friday evenings, for instance? About 80 percent of the congresspeople, the vast majority of whom are males, do not maintain a second home in Washington. They commute back to their home districts whenever they can. But for the most part, they are stuck with Washington's glittering nightlife with its temptations, and with plenty of Monicas and Chandras around as easy prey. Is the Hill culture one of preying and being preyed upon? Definitely both.

"This is the classic story about whether a powerful man can put himself above the law," notes another journalist, Maureen Dowd, "and about the unappetizing inequity of relationships in Washington between older married officials and young, needy women." For 10 weeks, Condit denied that he was having an affair with Chandra, shades of Clinton's wagging finger denying that he ever had sexual relations with that woman Monica Lewinsky! Only Chandra's parents' determined media campaign to flush out Condit made the latter admit to part of the truth, that he was indeed seeing Chandra. And more was to come. It's the proverbial you-get-deeper-in-the-hole syndrome.

Chandra's aunt came out of the woodwork as well, and gave an interview with The Washington Post. Dowd reports that Chandra's aunt gave "vivid, sad details of the secret liaison" with Condit, including the aunt's suggestion that she (Chandra) "try to please her lover by arranging his shirts by color and creating a cactus terrarium." Some aunt! Our classic "konsentidora." Did Chandra confide in her to begin with, just like Monica told all to Linda Tripp?

And as a situation like this would have it, more people are talking and telling. A minister in Condit's home district also came out with the information that his daughter, 18 years old at the time, had an affair with Condit, who warned her not to tell anybody about their relationship. The daughter, however, denied it. Who's telling the truth?

Then a flight attendant also went on TV to tell about her affair with Condit, who reportedly asked her to sign an affidavit denying their relationship. She gave some details which would convince anyone that she was not making it up.

More details of this sexual politics episode are bound to emerge. But it's amazing how the police keeps repeating that Condit is "not a suspect" in the case. Apparently, he took a lie detector test, and came out clean, but he arranged the test himself, sully its credibility. He has said very little, is very evasive and one gets the feeling that there's something left unsaid.

Something which may shed light on Chandra's sudden disappearance with no trace at all. A veritable massive "womanhunt" of even abandoned buildings has turned up nothing, not a clue. Does this have the makings of a perfect crime in the sleazy world of power, arrogance and sex?

Belinda A. Aquino is professor of Political Science and Asian Studies and director of the Center for Philippine Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

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NOW that it is established that the present Mehan Gardens is but a part of the former Jardin Botanico, the protected historical and archaeological site covers more than the contested plots of land where Mayor Lito Atienza insists on building the City College of Manila and the Park and Ride Terminal. The area is bigger than we thought bounded by the post office, the walls of Intramuros, Arroceros all the way down to Concepcion Street, literally at the foot of the Manila City Hall. I admit the place is not as clean and green as it should be, but it is rich in historical and archaeological significance.

If you are passing by the Metropolitan Theater en route to Quiapo these days, look into the fenced-off area where the Park and Ride Terminal was slowly developing before it was stopped by this controversy. There is a metal structure already standing there which makes me wonder how the contractors managed to secure a Department of Environment and Natural Resources permit to even dig here without the required clearance from the National Historical Institute and the National Museum. I presume a DENR permit was issued before excavation began, so who issued the DENR permit? Why didn't this official check with the NHI and the National Museum? Someone should look into this to prevent further cultural damage not only in the Jardin Botanico but in other historical and archaeological sites around the country, overlooked because our attention is focused on the Jardin Botanico.

History tells us that the Spaniards were threatened by the huge Chinese population and segregated them in ghettos. A part of Binondo was designated as a settlement for Chinese converts to Christianity while their "heathen" brothers were restricted to the Parian where the Metropolitan Theater and Post Office stand today. The late H. Otley Beyer explored the areas south of the Pasig before the war, identifying rich archaeological sites at the south approach of the Quezon Bridge, Post Office and Metropol-



## Tithing and giving from one's heart

ELEONOR Suson of the Department of Political Science, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City argues her case quite strongly on the impropriety of tithing ("Skepticism on the 'ikapu'," PDI/6/6/01) but also shows lamentable ignorance of the issue.

To say that the Church has become profit-oriented is rather sweeping. Not all that involves money means business; it may simply be a matter of survival. "As a devoted Catholic for many years," Suson should have known by now that one does not pay for the celebration of the sacraments. On the one hand, Canon Law 843 clearly states that the minister "must always ensure that the needy are not deprived of the help of the sacraments by reason of poverty." One simply gives, offers or donates to the Church whatever is within his or her means. On the other hand, Canon Law 222, 1 says, "Christ's faithful have the obligation to provide for the needs of the Church, so that the Church has available to it those

things which are necessary for divine worship, for apostolic and charitable work and for the worthy support of its members." Therefore, it speaks of a distorted priority for one who buys a case of beer at a child's baptismal party but offers, in the words of Suson, only the "barya-barya" to the Church under the pretext of poverty. Without offerings, chances are our priests will have to do moonlighting. Hyphenated priests, we call them: priest-engineer, priest-doctor, priest-technician, priest-salesman, priest-orchid vendor, priest-meat dealer. When that happens, "to fulfill the hunger and thirst of the spirit" will simply be an impossible dream.

Yes, there is a very long tradition of tithing that dates back to the Old Testament (among many other passages: Gen 14:20, Gen 28:22, Lev 27:30-34, Num 18:21-24). In the New Testament, Jesus is even more demanding. He condemned the Pharisees for being so self-righteous about having paid their tithes while, at the same time, neglecting "the

weightier matters of the law, justice and mercy and good works." (Mt 23:23) His apostles left everything. "If a man wishes to come after me, he must deny his very self, take up his cross and follow in my steps." (Mt 8:34) In the life of the early Christian community, we note that the believers shared everything in common. "They would sell their property and goods, dividing everything on the basis of each one's need." (Acts 2:44-45) "Nor was there anyone needy among them, for all who owned property or houses sold them and donated the proceeds. They used to lay them at the feet of the apostles to be distributed to everyone according to his need." (Acts 4:34-35) The demands of Christian life are very radical. True, Christ never demanded tithes from his disciples. He was more radical. He needs our whole being (including sanctifying our time, work, resources, family, etc.).

Times have changed. It may be true that "neither the Vatican nor the priests are starving like so many of the poor," but we really don't have

## LETTERS

to wait for their starvation in order for us to give. It is alarming enough to have so many poor parishes. But it is even more alarming to see that only a few really give from the heart. We call ourselves Christians, but we cannot give our lives, our time, our property, not even a tenth of our income. We can give only the "barya-barya." St. Paul says: "Everyone must give according to what he has inwardly decided; not sadly, not grudgingly, for God loves a cheerful giver. God can multiply his favors among you so that you may always have enough of everything and even a surplus for good works." (2 Cor 9:7-8)—REV. FR. FERDINAND T. HERNANDO, OAR, vice rector, St. Ezekiel Moreno Novitiate-Recoletos, Señora de la Paz Subd., Sumalong Highway, Antipolo City

## It takes three to make love perfect

IN FILING Senate Bill No. 782, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon proposes to legalize absolute divorce to end what he calls loveless marriages.

No more love? Only because we forget that it takes three to make a love perfect: husband, wife and God. Our own Constitution speaks in awe of the institution of marriage when it refers to its "sanctity," an attribute attached only to things divine. For it is the divine that ennobles love. And those who say that love is present only in the quickening of the glands or the tingling of bells debase man's nature. No wonder we say, there is no love. As Fulton

Sheen would say, "those who would separate the earthly sound from the heavenly harp can have no music... But they who see in all earthly beauty the faint copy of divine love, they who see fidelity to every vow—even when the other is untrue—a proof that God loves us who are so unlovable, they who in the face of their trials see that God's love ended in a cross, these will, even on earth, learn that love was made flesh and dwelled among us."—JO IMBONG, convenor, Mothers for Health, Home Empowerment and Reforms, Unit 101 Valle Verde Homes, Kaimito St., Pasig City

## Column on strokes appreciated

I AM writing to express my most sincere thanks to Neal Cruz for his column last July 5 titled, "Good news for stroke patients." As a regular INQUIRER reader, I have known Cruz to be an astute political observer and commentator, but I was pleasantly surprised to discover that he can discuss the state-of-the-art medical developments at the level of the country's best medical columnists.

I found his article to be particularly relevant because my own dear mother suffered a minor stroke a month ago. She has fully recovered, though she is still a little weak. But our family is anxious over the possibility of a second and more severe stroke, as very well explained by

Cruz, and subsequently confirmed by my mother's neurologist.

Now comes this drug, Perindopril, which is supposed to reduce the risk of stroke by up to 50 to 75 percent. I have always become skeptical about so-called "wonder drugs" but after reading Cruz's article, I have decided to revisit my mother's neurologist, so she can avail of the benefits of this new treatment.

In closing, a million thanks to Cruz and others like him, who through their writings, can claim to have had a very positive impact on the lives, health and well-being of ordinary people like us.—LALAINA A. RAPADAS, 13 Road 14, Project 8, Quezon City

## Preparing for heavier traffic in Bicutan

WE take note of the letter of Ringo Morella of Parañaque City last June 29 regarding the inevitable "traffic monster rising in Bicutan" which the ongoing construction of the SM mall will create as soon as it opens.

Like Morella, we also anticipate the very foreseeable congestion which the structure will cause. However, at this point, with the construction already going on, the most that we can do is coordinate with the local gov-

ernment of Parañaque and the residents of that area to discuss the possible traffic management solutions.

We would like to thank Morella for his concern and to reiterate that the convenience of our tollway-using public will always be on top of our priorities.—LUIS SISON, chair and CEO, Philippine National Construction Corp., Edsa cor. Reliance Street, Mandaue City

## Making sure the 'barako' survives

IT is quite heartening that in just a span of one week, two persons (Rina Lim of the University of the Philippines and Rommel Lalata) wrote letters about the need to resuscitate and the little steps they are taking to contribute in reviving the Philippines' dying coffee industry. I'm glad that more and more Filipinos have begun to appreciate Philippine coffee, particularly the famed Batangas barako.

On this note, I would like to share the Figaro Foundation's efforts in reviving our coffee industry, which we are doing through the revitalization of the barako, which is on the verge of extinction. The barako is one of the costliest casualties of the sorry fate of our coffee industry. Should we lose the barako, we

would be losing an important part of our Filipino heritage.

That is why, since early last year, we have initiated projects to help the barako. One of them is Project Bean Aid, where those who would like to help the barako back on its feet can buy a bag of the blend and a barako tree will be planted in his or her name. And on July 21, we will be having our second Barako Tree Planting Tour, where coffee enthusiasts and other concerned individuals or corporations may take part in planting barako trees in Tagaytay. We need to plant 50,000 barako trees in the next five years to ensure its survival.—PACITA U. JUAN, Figaro Foundation Corp., Unit 3C Classica Condominium, HV dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City

## Aussie justice will catch Gonzaleses' killers

THE MURDERS of lawyer Teddy Gonzales, his wife Lowiva and daughter Clodine on the night of July 10 at their home in Sydney shocked the Filipino community in Australia. I heard about it first on radio. Because of the medication I was taking, I could not report on the murders.

Since I worked in Australia as a journalist in April 1993, I have never reported anything similar to it. But one thing is sure to happen: the police will arrest the suspect or suspects who will not be presented to the media and Australia's justice system will provide the victims fair justice because, unlike in the Philippines, there you cannot bribe prosecutors and judges. Judges usually render their decisions after the prosecutor and the

defense counsel rest their case; the written decision follows.

Our police, the National Bureau of Investigation, prosecutors and soldiers think that their jobs are done when they present the suspects to the media. This is wrong because the media are not part of a judicial system, and the police, NBI and soldiers violate the human rights of the suspects who are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

When I was visiting San Jose City, Nueva Ecija, the hometown of my wife Rosette, Rep. Eleuterio Violago told me that he would be happy if our police, prosecutors and judges could not be bribed and justice would not be delayed.—OSCAR R. LANDICHO, orlandicho@hotmail.com



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## The world has truly gone to the dogs

IN A HISTORIC (yet infamous) ruling of the Chilean Appeals Court, the tribunal has decided in favor of Augusto Pinochet, stating that the former strongman is "mentally unfit" to stand trial and defend himself from the charges filed against him for human rights abuses. Subscribing to the arguments of the defense that Pinochet's previous strokes and heart attacks have caused him to suffer from mild dementia, the court, in effect, exempted him from prosecution.

But while this may initially seem as an isolated case (confined to a small country 30 hours away from Manila), it nonetheless sets an ominous and ignominious precedent for the country and its legal institutions. For only a day after the Chilean ruling was the arraignment of former Philippine President Joseph Estrada. Charged with economic plunder amounting to P4 billion, his arraignment process took on the characteristics of the Kafkaesque and the surreal, with the counsel of the accused saying that Republic Act 7080 or the Plunder Law was unconstitutional—which was ironically the very same law Erap himself had co-authored when he was still a senator.

While the nature of the accusations are different—with Pinochet charged with committing human rights violations and with Erap suspected of amassing ill-gotten wealth—the comical bent of the proceedings and the more compromising bent of the incumbent governments have become dangerously similar. And with former Justice Secretary Serafin Cuevas joining Estrada's defense team, the possibility of an acquittal is not far-fetched. As foreign observers have noted, the likelihood of the Pinochet trial losing momentum was just a matter of time. This may yet happen in Estrada's plunder case.

In the end, it is uncertain who among the three is truly mad: Pinochet with his "mild" dementia, the Chilean court for believing in the ex-dictator's conjectures, or Estrada for violating his own plunder law? Strange world, isn't it?—MARY AILEEN BACALSO, secretary general, Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances c/o FIND-Philippines, 50 K-8th St., West Kamias, Quezon City

## Wrong image and message

COMING home from a late afternoon class in PE I, Foundations of Physical Fitness, where because of the growing number of smokers, both male and female from among our youth, I delivered an inspired lecture on the dangers of smoking. I was elated to see in the six o'clock news a proposed bill which will make illegal the purchasing and smoking of cigarettes, by minors, 16 years old and under. The justification for the bill includes statistics such as 99 percent of those who have lung cancer contracted the disease from smoking; nine Filipinos every hour or 4.570 million a year die of heart disease where cigarette smoking is a predisposing factor; two Filipinos a day or 20,000 a year die due to smoking; annual government income from tobacco products is P21 million while annual expenditure by the government for the treatment and medical care of patients who are sick or dying because of smoking is P46 million; billions of dollars worth of class suits filed in court against cigarette manufacturers in the United States have been decided in favor of complainants.

Toward the end of the newscast, I was shocked to see President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo wearing a hard hat and gracing the groundbreaking ceremonies of a cigarette manufacturing facility! Are we that desperate in wanting to project a favorable image of foreign investments still coming into our country, that we permit the entry of a business venture, proven with glaring and indisputable facts, to be a losing proposition and posing a great danger to the physical fitness, health and well-being of our youth and people?—APARICIO H. MEQUIL, president, Philippine Association of Physical Educators Inc. (PAPE), 109 Valenzuela St., U P Diliman, Quezon City



# The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, Editor

## Summit fails at 11th hour

AGRA, India—India and Pakistan scrambled yesterday to explain how their leaders failed to reach any accord on their half-century dispute over Kashmir, as Kashmiris braced for renewed violence in the Himalayan province.

"We had high hopes from the summit that it would bring peace to Kashmir," said 16-year-old student Naveed Bashir as he waited for his school bus in the Himalayan province. "But unfortunately, the failure of the talks means more violence, death and destruction."

Late Monday night, Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf met for an hour with

Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in one final attempt to salvage the three-day summit. As midnight approached, however, neither side was willing to budge and Musharraf departed for the airport and flew back to Pakistan without any agreement or joint statement issued.

It appeared that the stumbling blocks involved language over how to describe the dispute over Kashmir and the militants that India calls terrorists and Pakistan calls freedom fighters. Neither government was specific about the final obstacle.

India's foreign and defense minister Jaswant Singh said Vajpayee had "firmly tried to raise the question of terrorism. If such an understanding by Pakistan existed on terrorism, this situation (of no

accord) wouldn't have arisen."

The governments stunned summit delegates from both South Asian countries and more than 1,000 journalists from around the world who had been told all day to prepare for a joint declaration by the two leaders that would cover new ground on Kashmir, security, terrorism and narcotics.

Instead, a spokesperson for the Indian government gave a terse, one-sentence statement that no agreement was reached.

The summit "certainly was inspired by the expectation . . . that there would be accommodation, understanding and movement forward," Singh told a news conference yesterday.

"Complex negotiations and discussions hang by a thread," he said. "We made

every effort to arrive at an agreed text. I don't want to say how close we were or far we were."

Noting that Musharraf had invited Vajpayee to visit Pakistan, Singh added, "I would not treat this as the end of the exercise. Our commitment to peace, dialogue, and amity between the two countries remains."

"The caravan of peace will continue on its march and on some auspicious day it will reach its destination," said Singh.

Pakistan's Information Minister Anwar Mahmood yesterday said Musharraf was "very, very disappointed and hurt that he and Vajpayee had agreed to everything, they had settled on an agreement and six hours later it was in tatters." AP



AN X-RAY of the Abio-Cor implantable replacement heart inside a recipient is displayed during a press conference at the Jewish Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky July 18.

## Doctors upbeat about artificial heart prospects

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—Surgeons said on Monday they were encouraged by the progress of the world's first self-contained artificial heart recipient and believed the device was working well enough to proceed with a second implant.

Dr. Robert Dowling, who helped implant the experimental device at Jewish Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky, said he was encouraged by early results from the trial and said the next such implant for his team could come within a week or two.

"For at least the next week or two, our resources, our human resources, are limited. We need to put a lot of energy into our current patient. It will be a week or two before we do another implant," Dowling said.

Earlier on Monday, Dowling and fellow surgeon Laman Gray said the heart recipient showed improvement in his liver, lung and kidney function and had begun mild exercises to rebuild muscle tone lost to the end-stages of heart failure.

Both said the patient, whose identity is secret but is described as a diabetic man in his 50s, has done better than they had expected before the surgery. But they cautioned that the patient is extremely sick and will be so for a very long time.

"We can have trouble with everything else, but we're not having troubles with this heart," Gray said referring to the heart's performance despite the patient's weakened condition.

He told a news briefing that the patient's condition prior to the surgery was "as far in end-stage heart disease as anybody can be."

The doctors said the patient's kidney function has returned to where it was a year ago, and his liver was functioning at near-normal levels, which was better than they had hoped. His lung function, a key concern in any heart surgery, also looked good, they said.

Since the implant, he has had various complications including a procedure early on to stop internal bleeding around the grapefruit-sized, titanium and plastic device. Last week, doctors drained fluid from around the device's battery pack and the patient was placed back on a ventilator. Reuters

## US may grant amnesty to 3M Mexican illegals

WASHINGTON—A plan that could grant legal status to up to 3 million Mexicans living illegally in the United States is being weighed by the administration of President George W. Bush in one of the largest amnesty programs ever considered.

Many details remain to be worked out and no decision is imminent, Bush's spokesperson said.

Despite potential problems, press secretary Ari Fleischer said Monday that Bush was committed to working with the Mexican government to ease "what has been a disorderly process" along the 3,200-km border.

The administration's review touched off a lively political debate.

Mexican President Vicente Fox, who has urged Bush to consider legalization steps, welcomed the development. Speaking Monday to the Economic Club of Chicago, Fox said he is committed to "as many rights as possible for as many Mexican immigrants as possible as soon as possible."

A task force of top Justice and State Department officials prepared a report for the White House outlining options for overhauling US immigration policies toward Mexico.

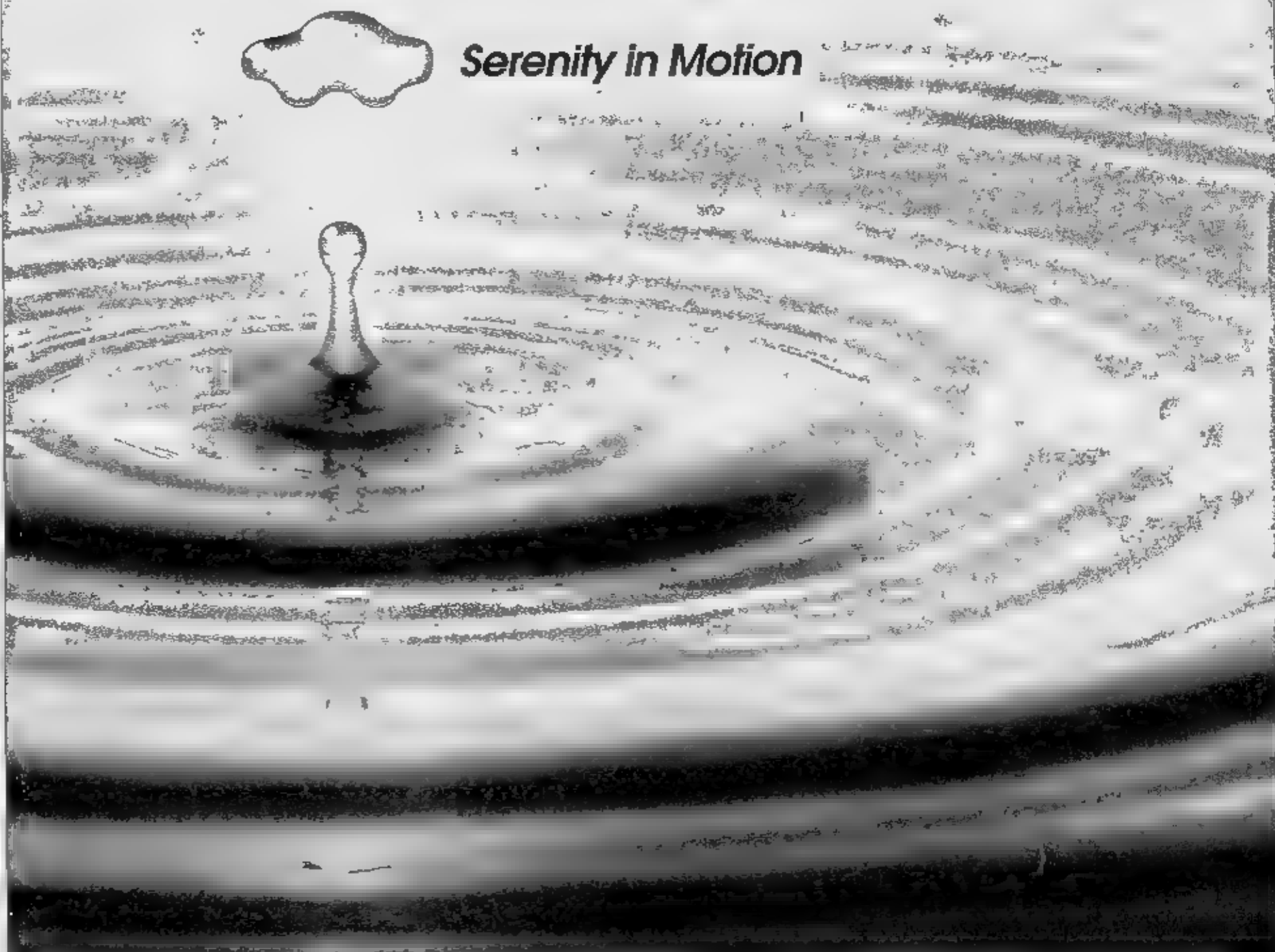
A broad grant of amnesty for illegal Mexicans already living in this country was among the options cited by the task force, but the report did not include specific recommendations or spell out a timetable, administration aides said.

Fleischer said that "regularization of undocumented Mexicans in the United States" was being weighed.

Border safety issues will be considered in any immigration overhaul he said. He also suggested that a new program for guest workers—those who are working only temporarily in the United States—was being crafted.

Congressional conservatives have opposed anything beyond allowing Mexicans to stay as temporary laborers. The consideration of even limited amnesty is a divisive political issue, particularly in border states and among Republicans in Congress. AP

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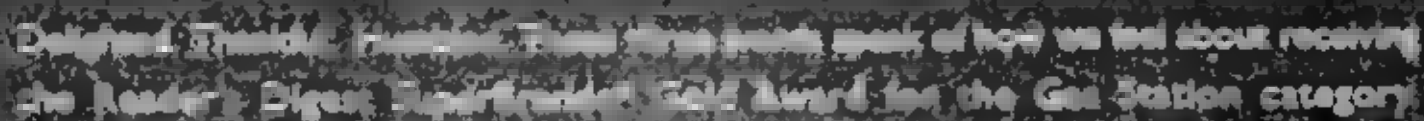








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# Across the NATION

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Mabadi Road, Davao City  
Tel. Nos. (082) 244-1770 to 71

## 2 rebels killed in Mindoro

BY JOEL JABAL  
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

**CALAPAN CITY**—At least two rebels were killed in a clash between a New People's Army group and soldiers of the Southern Luzon Command's Task Force Banahaw early Tuesday in Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro.

The battle site in Sitio Tumbaga, Barangay Panaytayay, some 180 kilometers south of this city, was where Army Maj. Noel Buan was believed held. Buan was released in April in Sitio Bait, also in Panaytayay, a Mangyan community.

The area was also believed to be where NPA spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal is now based.

Col Danilo Fabian, Solcom spokesperson, said soldiers of the 16th Infantry Battalion recovered the bodies of the unidentified rebels, who belonged to the NPA's Regional Guerrilla Unit led by a certain Komander Lawin.

They also found two M-16 rifles and other NPA paraphernalia.

In Compostela Valley, an Army sergeant and two militiamen were killed when an ambush by about 30 NPA rebels in Barangay Anibungan, Maco town on Saturday.

Army Col. Felipe Berroya, 701st Infantry Division chief, said soldiers of the 60th IB under Maj. Roger Madalogdog were riding in a military vehicle when they were attacked.

Killed were Sgt. Verbo Castillo, and Orlando Antacamara and Bernie Cinda, members of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit.

Berroya said the government troops engaged the rebels in an hour-long exchange of gunfire until military reinforcements arrived, forcing the rebels to withdraw. With a report from Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

# Isabela farmers oppose field testing of Bt corn

**LAGAN, Isabela**—Farmers and concerned residents are opposing the field testing of Bt corn, a genetically modified crop, in 10 towns of the province.

The opposition was formalized during a public hearing here Monday as the municipal councils of four of the 10 towns targeted for field tests passed resolutions supporting the activity.

Members of the provincial board said they would study the reasons cited by those opposing and supporting the field testing before deciding on its endorsement.

The proposed field testing activities would be done in 11 villages covering a total of 22,100 hectares of agricultural land.

Monsanto, a multinational agricultural firm that initiated the project, would let loose Yieldgard Bt corn seeds injected with the organism called *Bacillus thuringiensis* in 32 proposed sites in the country, including those in Isabela.

The project aims to confirm the resistance of Bt corn to the Asiatic corn borer, evaluate its economic value and assess its grain quality.

The villages where the field tests are scheduled are Carulay in Echague, Alinguan 2nd and San Felipe in Ilagan, Sili in Aurora, Villaluna in Cauayan, Malarao in Jones, Masaya Sur in San Agustin, Malarao West in Tumauni, Napuccu Pequeño in Reina Mercedes, Yeban Sur in Benito Soliven, and Garita in Cabagan.

The municipal councils of Cabagan, Echague, Tumauni and Jones have approved resolutions endorsing the field tests in their areas.

The Bt corn is considered a genetically modified crop. GMOs are animals or plants conceived through bioengineering.

Prof. Romeo Quijano of the University of the Philippines assailed the proponents of the field tests for ignoring public health and safety.

He said that among the side effects on users of GMO-enhanced products are the possible spread of cancer.

"It would be better to uphold the environment's beauty and safeguard people's health than embarking on a short-term development," he said.

Dr. Charito Medina, a UP College Los Baños

entomologist, said further study of the effects of Bt corn-laced seeds was needed before doing the field tests and selling the seeds to farmers.

Danilo Tumamao, Cagayan Valley Agriculture, Regional Center chief, welcomed the proposed field testing in Isabela.

He expressed confidence that Bt corn yields would increase by 30 to 69 percent compared with ordinary corn varieties, like the IPB-911 and the Super Sweet Corn.

The increase in harvests was first reported in General Santos City where initial field tests were held last year.

Tumamao and other Bt corn test proponents said the crop's leaves and stalks were free from corn borers, its grains clean and undamaged, its yield increase would reach 9 percent, and the plants could withstand adverse weather conditions.

The 3,000-strong Dagupan Dagiti Maraulon iti Isabela, a province-wide farmers' organization, asked Gov. Faustino Dy Jr. to oppose the field testing, saying it was "environmentally poisonous." Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

## WEATHER FORECAST

**FORECAST:** Luzon, Eastern Visayas and Eastern Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Baguio	Cloudy	HI 23° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Laosig	Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Clark Zamb	Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Togayay	Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 22°
Lagayay	Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 22°
Calapan	Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 25°
Boacul	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Tacoloban	Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 25°

Compiled by Ray Loyosa, PDI Research/7/16/01

## ROUNDUP

### SC dismisses judge

**TUGUEGARAO CITY**—The Supreme Court has dismissed a judge in Cagayan for allowing a payoff between litigants in court premises in 1996. It also ordered the forfeiture of government benefits of Judge Dominador Garcia of the municipal trial court in Tuguegarao. In a decision issued last week, the high court said Garcia allowed the use of his sala for a payoff between two Tuguegarao policemen and a suspected gun wielder on Oct. 30, 1996. Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

### Rapist gets death

**LA TRINIDAD, Benguet**—For the first time in this capital town's history, a court sentenced a man to death for raping his 10-year-old stepdaughter. Judge Francis Buliyat of the regional trial court said the man should die by lethal injection for sexually abusing the girl three times in 1997 and 1998 in Taoy Sur in Tubog, Benguet. In a decision issued on July 2, Buliyat ordered the man to pay his victim P375,000 in damages. Buliyat said 80 percent of at least 60 pending rape cases in Benguet involved child victims. Joya Santos Doctor, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

### SC tests camera use

**LA TRINIDAD, Benguet**—The Supreme Court is testing the use of modern visual equipment to ease the fear and discomfort of child rape victims while testifying in court. Aracelo Degay, assistant clerk of court for Benguet, said the high court was thinking of installing cameras inside the judge's chamber where victims of child rape will testify. Viewing screens will be put up inside the courtroom. Degay said that under the present system, the child faced the accused rapist, along with several others, making it difficult for her to testify during the trial. Joya Santos Doctor, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

### Calamity funds sought

**SAN FERNANDO CITY**—Ilocos officials appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo to order the immediate release of calamity funds, including internal revenue allotments of provinces, for the rehabilitation of towns ravaged by Typhoon "Feria" in the region early this month. Senior Supt. Arturo Lomibao, Regional Disaster Coordinating Council chair, said Pangasinan, La Union, Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte needed at least P1 million each as initial financial aid and P500,000 each for the region's eight cities. Peter La. Juban, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

### Soldiers seize guns

**CAMP MELCHOR DE LA CRUZ, Isabela**—Army soldiers recovered 11 high-powered firearms from a suspected rebel armory in Pamplona, Cagayan. Reports said Valeriano Balbuenza, a former member of the New People's Army's Apayao Party Committee from 1987 to 1992, guided the soldiers to a firearms cache in Barangay Gatto in Pamplona. Balbuenza said five M-16 rifles, one M-14 rifle, three shotguns and two 38 cal revolvers were entrusted to him by his former colleagues. Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

### 3 drug suspects nabbed

**HAGONOY, Buheno**—Police arrested three suspected illegal drug pushers in their hideout in Barangay Sto. Nifo here on Thursday. Arrested were brothers Candido, Ferdinand and Luciano Laderas. Recovered from them were 19 plastic sachets of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride), a digital weighing scale and a list of people believed to be their regular customers. Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

### 8 wounded in robbery

**KIDAPAWAN CITY**—Eight persons were wounded when five armed robbers entered a grocery store here on Sunday night. Witnesses said the gunmen barged into the Kasapi Warehouse and declared a robbery. A security guard, Edwin Malasaban, wrestled with one of the robbers but was hit in the nape. Also wounded were Sergio Samonte, store owner Jose Pimentel and his son Ryan. The robbers took off in two L-300 vans with P40,000. Jeffrey Tupaz, PDI Mindanao Bureau

### Moro leader killed

**KIDAPAWAN CITY**—A Moro community leader, his two sons and a daughter-in-law were shot and killed by three gunmen while entering a mosque on Alim Street here yesterday morning. Hadji Abdul Tangle, his son Tato and his wife Nono died on the spot. Another son Mukalidin died at the hospital. Tangle's wife Noria was wounded and brought to the hospital. Noria identified one of the attackers as Sahid Ali, a neighbor. Ali, who was arrested after the incident, claimed he acted alone and that the Tangles had mistreated him. Jeffrey Tupaz, PDI Mindanao Bureau

## Mindoreños laud mining pact revocation

BY JOEL JABAL  
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

**CALAPAN CITY**—Environmentalists and anti-mining advocates hailed the decision of Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez to revoke the mineral production sharing agreement (MPSA) of Aglubang Mining Corp./Crew Minerals Philippines (CMP). "This is a victory of the people," said Evelyn Cacha, provincial chair of the Alliance against Mining (Alamin).

"We don't need cobalt and nickel. Our people need something to eat," she said.

Oriental Mindoro Rep. Alfonso Umali Jr. (2nd District) said he had never lost hope that the MPSA, approved last December by then Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles, would be revoked.

Alvarez announced the revocation of the 25-year agreement in a press conference Monday in Quezon City. The MPSA covers more than 9,000 hectares near the boundary of Victoria, Oriental Mindoro and Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro.

"If the mining operations will continue, we will suffer flooding worse than the one we experienced in 1993," Bishop Warlito Cajandig said.

Environment Undersecretary Gregorio Cabanac said Alvarez's decision could be con-

sidered a "landmark ruling to guide mining operations in the future."

Cabanac said the DENR evaluation team found that the mining area is traversed by two active earthquake faults, is located in a critical watershed, overlaps with areas being claimed by Mangyans as ancestral domain, and is being claimed to be a Tamaraw Reservation Area.

He said Alvarez saw for himself that the mining area was indeed inside a watershed, the source of the Mag-Asawaang Tubig which supplies water to two major irrigation projects in Nagayan town and this city.

The company said it was willing to invest \$35 billion to develop the nickel and cobalt project.

## Journalists to march today

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga**—Fifty journalists in Pampanga vowed to wear red shirts when they march to the provincial capitol here today to demand a public apology from Board Member Crisostomo Garbo for acts "inimical to the pursuit of press freedom."

The Capitol Press Corps, the Pampanga chapters of the National Press Club, the Kapitan ng mga Brodcasters sa Pilipinas and the Angeles City Press and Radio Club have also asked the Bureau of Immigration to verify Garbo's citizenship.

Garbo angered the journalists when he said in a speech at Wednesday's provincial board session that capitol reporters were behind the "imaginary rift" between Gov. Manuel Lapid and Vice Gov. Juan Miguel Arroyo.

Chris Navarro, Sun\*Star Pampanga reporter-photographer, said Garbo also pressured reporters to reveal their sources of stories disclosing the "pre-scripted" session that had maneuvered the selection of heads of powerful board committees.

Reporters learned that Arroyo and some board members, in meetings held before the elections, had already chosen who was to get what committees, violating the policy of transparency that the vice governor had laid down.

Garbo, who became Arroyo's ally early into the campaign trail, got the chairmanship of the powerful committee on appropriations.

Other board members cornered committee chairmanships except Robert David, a Lapid ally who felt "strangely left out."

Apologetic, Garbo said he was "taken by emotions."

Arroyo appealed to reporters to be more "responsible" in exercising fairness in reporting provincial affairs. Tonette Orejas and Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

## Traders warned on fake ad agents

A PAMPANGA newspaper publisher has warned businessmen and government offices against dealing with bogus advertising agents who are using the Central Luzon Weekly Mirror (CLM) or the non-existent Metropolitan Mirror in their swindling activities.

Jerry Lacuarta, CLM publisher and editor, said a syndicate, headed by a woman, has been soliciting ads in Pampanga without authority from the newspaper.

Lacuarta said the group has duped small businesses, mostly fishpond operators, fingerling breeders, cooking oil producers, and animal feed makers in remote villages.

He said that among the recent victims who complained to him were a cooking oil manufacturer in San Simon who paid P750; a small tomato planter in Arayat, P500; and a feed producer in Lambac, Guagua, P3,500.

Lacuarta said the woman, described by the victims as a "sweet talker," had obtained blank forms of CLM ad contracts from Angel Camiling, a former advertising agent of the newspaper, and reproduced the documents.

Lacuarta said Camiling recruited the woman as partner in soliciting ads sometime last year. It was then that CLM started receiving complaints from some businessmen who did not see their ads in the newspaper.

Lacuarta said the group was also soliciting ads for the non-existent Metropolitan Mirror, which was planned to be a sister publication of the CLM in Metro Manila.

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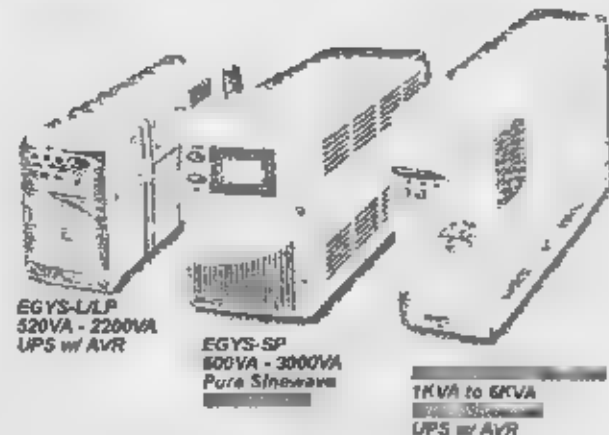
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# Villagers feast on logs swept away by 'Feria'

BY CRISTINA ARZADON  
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BANNA, Ilocos Norte—While typhoon victims in Ilocos Norte are still probably cursing "Feria," villagers here are going gaga over what they consider "a gift" from the recent calamity.

Residents have feasted on hundreds of trees swept downstream by flashfloods at the height of the typhoon early this month.

The felled trees—an array of various species from mahogany, acacia, *damortis* to *arbo-ro*—were found spread across the Bongo River which also traverses the neighboring towns of Nueva Era and Marcos.

Heaps of uprooted trees and broken logs clogged the river channel and swamped nearby farming areas.

Residents say the trees were swept from the Surong Valley in Nueva Era and carried by strong water current to the Bongo River that straddles Banna all the way to Marcos.

Due to the weight of the trees, 50 hectares of farmland in four villages here were flooded when the river overflowed or its channel diverted creating a new spillway from adjacent fields, they said.

A farmer said they pulled the trees ashore for their own use.

"This is our only relief from our losses. We cannot allow anyone to claim these trees. We will keep them as our own," the farmer said.

Banna Mayor Janne Abadilla, amazed by the volume of trees that swamped the river, said even 50 10-wheel trucks would not be enough to haul all the trees because of their sizes and quantity.

"I cannot say whether these trees are manna from heaven or a disaster," Abadilla said, noting that while the trees caused farmland to be silted when the river overflowed, residents have found materials to rebuild damaged houses.

"Let's just say the trees came as a reward to affected residents," he added.

However, Abadilla, expressing suspicions that some of the trees may have been illegally cut, told reporters he wanted these to be kept as evidence for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to assess.

He shared the residents' observation that a large fraction of the trees seemed to have been previously cut as shown by the absence of

branches and roots in some trees.

"This is incredible. We are calling (on) the DENR to determine who should answer for this," Abadilla said.

Nueva Era officials have adopted an internal arrangement allowing farmers to keep the trees as long as they live within the river's surrounding areas.

The arrangement was reached after the DENR reportedly gave permission to local officials to allow the residents to get what they need even without securing salvage permits from the agency.

Nueva Era Councilor Jose Valente, however, said priority would be given to those affected by the typhoon.

Farmers lost no time in looking for what they can salvage from the rare find.

Armed with chainsaws, the farmers took to the river and cut the trees into slabs. They etched markings on those they could not work on for the day to signify that the trees have already been owned.

Valente denies that illegal logging in his town caused the trees to be swept away from the mountains.

He said the trees were uprooted when a portion of the mountain slope eroded during the typhoon.

## 2 dead men dumped in lahar area

BY TONETTE OREJAS  
PDI Central Luzon Desk

MINALIN, Pampanga—Of late, Pampanga's lahar fields have become the favorite dumping ground of suspected victims of summary executions, police reports showed.

Children playing along the S.A. Catalina section of the San Fernando-Sto. Tomas-Minalin dike found two dead men there on Friday last week.

The heads of the men were wrapped in packaging tape. Their necks were strangled with nylon rope, the children said.

Police said one of the men bore a card identifying him as Marvin Grafiza, 19, of Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya. The other man, also about the same age, remained unidentified.

For villagers who fought in a people power-like manner the attempts by disposal firms to throw garbage here, the discovery of dead bodies drew angry reactions.

"They used to dump garbage here that we always resisted. Now, they're dumping the dead in our village. This is bad," Dominga Mendoza, a resident in Sta. Catalina, said.

In Bacolor town, which lies north of Minalin, farmers on July 12 discovered a half-naked dead woman along the San Isidro segment of the 56-km long FVR Megadike.

Police said the woman, who appeared to be between 18 and 22 years old stood at 5 feet 3 inches, remained unidentified.



CRUDE RIVER CROSSING

Children make their way across a jetty over the Cagayan de Oro River. The structure was installed in preparation for the construction of a bridge. Local historians and anthropologists are opposing the bridge project, saying it would affect archaeological efforts near the area.

PROLON GALLARDO

## Egg basket's fate blamed on DPWH

MINALIN, Pampanga—Typhoon "Feria's" fury spared most parts of Pampanga, but it left this coastal town, the egg basket of Central Luzon, in a state of calamity.

Feria's floodwaters, coming from three rivers, drained through this town, bursting the unfinished San Fernando-Sto. Tomas-Minalin dike.

From a 30-meter gap three weeks ago, the dike's damaged segment widened to 70 meters on Monday, forcing more floodwaters to swamp Minalin, according to Mayor Edgar Flores.

More than 3,000 families in seven villages are still under two to three feet of floodwaters that have turned murky, he said.

But more than the floods, it was the "inaction" of the Department of Public Works and Highways' Mount Pinatubo Rehabilitation Project Management Office (MPR-PMO) that has prompted the municipal board to declare a state of calamity, Flores said.

Requests by residents and officials to immediately repair the damaged dike have fallen on deaf ears, Pampanga Rep. Juan Pablo Bondoc said.

Amando Ramirez, head of the DPWH MPR-PMO office, said he has repeatedly urged R-II Builders, the construction firm which won the project to strengthen the dike, to

repair the structure.

Bondoc and Board Member Nestor Tolentino have asked the Commission on Audit last week to audit the project funds. The two officials also asked the DPWH to compel R-II Builders to explain why it was not repairing the damaged section.

"We were expecting that they would maximize the non-rainy days for the repair. To date, no equipment has moved and no action has been taken. Since this is already the rainy season, more than 40,000 residents in my district (fourth district) including those in Minalin, will deal with more serious and longer flooding," Bondoc said.

Post-election hostilities have made the situation worse. Former mayor Santiago Yabut withdrew the truck, which he owns, that the town uses during evacuation.

Financial records were also missing from the municipal offices, making it difficult for newly elected officials to determine how much money was available for relief assistance, Flores said.

Tolentino has asked the provincial government to allot emergency funds to the town. Flores has asked town residents, especially the rich, to pool local resources like food, medicines, potable water and vehicles. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

## Negros sugar farm overseer, son killed

BY CARLA P. GOMEZ  
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—A sugar farm overseer and his son were stabbed dead yesterday by two men inside a jeepney in Sagay City, 82.5 km north of here.

Killed were Gerardo Javelosa, 63, a cousin of Sagay Mayor Fortunato Javelosa, and his son Fernando, 30.

Gerardo's daughter Sheila, 26, suffered stab wounds in the hands.

Policemen were able to arrest one of the suspects, identified as Andres Siacor, an hour after the attack.

Siacor, 45, is the administrator of a sugar farm disputed by the employer of the older Javelosa and Siacor's employer, Leticia Baylon.

Supt. Modesto Sanson, Sagay police chief, said the attack could have been triggered by revenge for a previous killing.

On June 22, about 20 armed men led farm worker Marganto Torres and wounded Amel Bernales and Alex Siacor, who were staying in the farm

house of Baylon in Hacienda Luga.

Among the suspects in the ambush were the Javelosas.

Andres Siacor, the cousin of Alex, runs the 24-hectare Hacienda Luga, a sugar farm claimed by Baylon in Barangay Baviera, Sagay.

Javelosa was claiming the property in behalf of his employer, a certain Gen. Emilio Luga, who lives in Manila.

Gerardo and his two children were riding in a jeepney owned by their relative from Barangay Bato, Sagay, on the way to the town proper when they were attacked at about 6:30 a.m.

The Javelosas were seated in the back of the jeep when a passenger got off along the highway at Barangay Lopez Jaena.

Two men at a waiting shed chased the slow-moving jeep, got inside the vehicle and stabbed the victims, said Sanson.

He said Sheila tried to ward off the assailants.

Gerardo and Fernando were declared dead on arrival at the Lopez District Pinaros Foundation Hospital.

## What Drives You



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Jim Pablo Bondoc  
Rimpy Bondoc  
Congressman,  
4th District, Pampanga



What Drives You



## Cargo vessel sinks

DAVAO CITY—An Interisland cargo vessel docked at the Sasa Wharf here sank after it was rammed by a bigger Singaporean vessel early yesterday.

The 25 crewmembers of the MV Dingalan Bay and their wives escaped unhurt. Bailjos helped those who had difficulty in swimming.

The 1,479-ton Dingalan Bay, which was loaded with iron bars, canned goods and plastic products, docked at the wharf at 1 a.m.

Its captain, Alfredo Sarturio, said they were about to take their breakfast when the Singapore-based MV Pacific Eagle hit their vessel.

Lino Victorino, skipper of the 8,533-ton Pacific Eagle owned by

C.F. Sharp Shipping Corp., was loaded with cars, accessories, and other imported goods.

Wharf security guard Romualdo Mariano said the Pacific Eagle was docking beside the Dingalan Bay when the accident happened.

Const. Guard Capt. Crisollito Agustin said damages could reach millions of pesos and their clean-up operation would run for days.

Based on preliminary investigation, the skipper of the Singaporean ship, Ahmed Heshim, a Bangladeshi, had acknowledged having problems with the steering wheel and engine. *Anthony Allada and Joel Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and AFP*



# INQUIRER Northern Luzon

JUN BANDAYREL, Editor • ROLANDO S. FERNANDEZ, Bureau Chief

## Divorce, Cordillera style

By DESIRRE CALUZA  
Benguet

**I** REMEMBER an Ifugao friend from Banaue telling me in jest that she wanted to get married in a traditional Ifugao wedding ceremony.

My friend said she wanted to do this because in marriages formalized in indigenous communities in the Cordillera, it would be easy to get out of marriage, or get a "divorce," if circumstances did not allow the marriage to work out.

I never believed her. In my visits to Cordillera communities, I would always notice that traditional weddings are the grandest and the most colorful of community

events. Merry-making fills the air while *kapiay* (rice wine) or *basi* (sugarcane wine) flows.

I never imagined that the concept of divorce, which is perceived to be a Western practice, could reach as far as the hinterland communities of Mt. Province, Ifugao, Kalinga and Benguet.

I tried to track down my friend from Banaue to confirm if it is indeed true that "divorce" exists in indigenous communities. Instead of finding her, I ended up with another friend, Manny Ngilat, a native of Lagawe, Ifugao.

Divorce does exist in Cordillera communities, he said.

"In our place, you call it *bohe*. Actually, this has been the practice of our forefathers who wanted to get out of marriage," Ngilat said.

In Ifugao, infertility and domestic violence

are among the grounds for divorce. But infertility has always been noted as the most common reason cited by Ifugao couples in separations.

"Having a child is a very big factor for a family. So it is their belief that it is useless living together if you do not have any children," Ngilat said.

For many Igorot families, having children means opportunities for a better life for the community that basically relies on farming.

The process of divorce in Ifugao, however, is not as tedious as the one offered in the divorce bill prepared by our legislators.

Ngilat said the separation of a couple was processed through amicable settlements between the families of the concerned spouses. Community elders play a vital part in mediating these settlements.

After an agreement is reached, the couple divide their property and end the talks with the butchering of a cow or a pig to be shared with the community.

In Sagada, Mt. Province, a member of the Kankanaey tribe said the grounds for divorce varied from homicide, infertility and impotence, to insanity. The divorce process among Kankanaeys is called *ama*.

Parties involved in the separation butcher carabao and pigs to formalize the settlement.

### Childlessness

In a 1979 dissertation titled "The Social World of the Ibalays" by Ursula Canino Perez, childlessness was cited as the "strongest ground for divorce." Incompatibility, laziness, cruelty and infidelity are seldom used as reasons for divorce in Ibalay communities.

Divorce among Ibalay couples is known as *ed'dang*. However, this type of separation is only temporary because Ibalays believe the couple can reunite.

In other Ibalay communities, divorce is called *bisak*.

The *ed'dang* can take effect for about a month or more depending on what has been agreed upon by the parties. In case of cruelty or infidelity, the *ed'dang* may be imposed for a certain period to allow the guilty party to reform.

If the spouses insist on having a divorce, the council of elders would give them a prescribed period, about a year or more, to consider their desire to separate.

If conflict between the spouses was not resolved within the prescribed period, the elders would then require them to submit themselves for final separation.

In the ritual, a pig, cow or carabao is butchered and community members are invited and notified of the divorce.

A couple granted divorce due to infertility, divide their property equally and share in the expenses for the ritual performed.

A study conducted by Lyn Madalang, executive director of the gender rights group Ebgan, dealt with a case of separation and multiple marriages in Bauko, Mt. Province.

Madalang, a native of Bauko, said a part of the study dealt with the experiences of her grandmother, who was engaged in multiple marriages, and the cases of divorce in their town.

"I found out that multiple marriages in Bauko are born out of divorce cases. Divorce has been practiced by our forefathers and it (he) explained why most members of the community are our close relatives," she said.

### Community concern

Divorce, like marriage, in Bauko is considered a community concern.

The beauty of the traditional practice of marriage and divorce can be felt when the community is there to support the couples, according to Madalang.

"Either the former wife or husband treats the new wife or husband as his or her sibling," she said.

The Kankanaeys in Northern Benguet also treat divorce cases as community concerns.

When former Benguet board member Bial Palaez was born, the Kankanaeys in Kapangan town were so happy that the curse was broken after his parents underwent a divorce or *man-ol-olang*.

Palaez said divorce was actually allowed by a cultural requirement.

"In my case, my parents had to undergo a *man-ol-olang* because my seven siblings who came before me were dying one after the other, so the elders decided that they have to separate to break the (curse)," Palaez said.

A ritual was performed after the Palaez couple decided to divorce. A ritual that involves the butchering of a pig was done to ask the spirits to assist the couple in mending their problems.

Months after, Palaez's parents remarried, but this time, they had to change to their names to signify their intention in establishing a new life and a new family and to forget the past.

"So when they married again, I came as the first born until there were seven of us. No one used anymore," Palaez said.

Only a few couples in northern Benguet still practice the *man-ol-olang* since Christianity and other religions have slowly been embraced in indigenous communities.

In Mt. Province, couples choose to undergo indigenous wedding ceremonies but still formalize their marriage vows in Catholic or Anglican churches.

"Colonial policies did not help in solving marriage problems. For me, the divorce bill being proposed by Sen. Rodolfo Biazon is just right since we have so many cases of separations. And we can never say that divorce can erode family values," Madalang said.

"Why is it that violence against women and incest rape are rampant if there are real family values?" she asked.

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A COUPLE in a traditional Kalinga wedding ceremony. Weddings are the grandest and most colorful of events in Cordillera communities. DESIRRE CALUZA



# Baguio's deep, dark secrets

BY VINCENT CABREZA  
Baguio City

**B**AGUIO City's prime real estate is perhaps its biggest asset. About 30 percent of properties in the city have commercial values that shoot up to as high as P500 million, making Baguio land one of the country's most coveted assets in recent history.

That quality of wealth had also been pressure enough to keep the city's deepest, darkest secrets buried for nearly 11 years. Until typhoon "Feria" showed up on July 4, battering its hillsides and unraveling its "very real" geological nightmares for all to see.

About 50 sinkholes, imperiled cliffside communities and countless home lots that are vulnerable to flooding were again uncovered as Feria's rains killed close to 40 people in a matter of days.

Most of these conditions had been documented and mapped out by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) as far back as 10 years ago, following the city's devastation after the July 16, 1990 earthquake.

But the city government has only been reflecting on the geological hazards after Feria.

Vice Mayor Betty Lourdes Tabanda is bracing herself for a fresh round of legislative debates to push into law a comprehensive land-use plan that incorporates "very real public hazard zones" identified by the MGB five years ago.

It will be the land-use plan's second foray into the public eye. When the plan was first introduced in 1998, councilors agonized over the hazard zones' impact on real estate taxes, as well as the fundamental foundations of Baguio's landed wealth, Tabanda said.

"The hidden issue (behind) the city's resistance to hazard zones had been land values. There were fears (raised by other councilors) that the hazard zones will plunge Baguio's real estate values to a disastrous low. (A councilor) kept raising the hazard zones' impact on taxes because he said the zones could mean a scaling down of values," Tabanda said.

"While it is ideal, to defend the land use plan because it protects people from such hazards, the real concerns (raised by most city officials) were about (economics)."

## True land scale

Neoman de la Cruz, MGB regional director, said the city's real estate concern could never replace the lives lost to Feria's landslides.

The buried houses in Barangays Inson and Piasa Proper were built on cliff sides.

"People did not really learn from the 1990 earthquake. But I am hoping they learned from Feria. It sometimes takes a tragedy to prick our conscience about what our priorities should have been," De la Cruz said.

"If real estate was the real issue why our geological hazard warnings had been ignored, why deceive our (real estate) buyers? Why didn't we tell our people that their lands lie atop danger spots? We should not use the principle of caveat emptor—buyers beware—because we are talking about lives here."

But real estate fears have not been flimsy concerns.

Fay Apil, the region's chief government geologist, said the hazard zones posted on environmental maps are drawn to include a wide margin of coverage because most of the actual danger spots have yet to be measured scientifically, according to their actual scale.

Several zones are located in high-end properties. For example, the mansions near Mines View Park, which the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos allegedly bought or built in the 1980s, are actually located on a fault line that geologists had already mapped out before July 1990.

## Limestone base

Multi-million-peso houses also line Barangays Crystal Cave, Dominican Hill, Mirador Hill, and Quezon Hill. All properties sit on limestone foundations.

Limestone areas are normally lined with surface and underground sinkholes

because lime is chemically vulnerable to water. Such sinkholes act as water tunnels, delivering surface runoff water down to underground rivers or toward the lowlands.

Many are big enough to swallow houses.

The MGB documented the collapse of a house in Crystal Cave in 1997. Apil said the house was built right above a thin layer of limestone that barely shielded a sinkhole.

Typhoons that year caused the sinkhole layer to open, swallowing a foundation column of the Daag family home. The same sinkhole is endangering the household of neighbor Liza Mamani.

A real estate broker said industry experts felt that the hazard zones could trigger a 50-percent plunge in Baguio's land values.

"We are worried because the way we understand sinkholes and geological hazards, you are not allowed to develop these parcels of land anymore, and land is a vital commodity in such short supply in Baguio. The city realized our concerns because its need for investors relied on how valuable Baguio land really is," the broker admitted.

## Gaps in land value

But even Baguio's land value scale may be temporary.

Estrella Tano, city assessor, said the gaps between the actual land values the city imposes and the commercial land values imposed by brokers have been too wide for comfort.

Tano cited Session Road in downtown Baguio and the Mines View Park properties.

"One Session Road property, for example, reportedly sells at P100,000 for every square meter when we actually value such land at P5,500," Tano explained.

"The Bureau of Internal Revenue also has a vastly divergent zone valuation system, so the same property costs P20,000 per square meter to them. So Baguio land had been at the center of such (industry) confusion."

She said the proposed hazard zones might actually help rationalize the real estate industry and help stabilize land prices in the city.

"You don't lose any value if your land has problems like this. The city reduces your taxes and the land remains an asset. In fact, the city could actually offer better incentives for tree farms or parks if these parcels of land are not supposed to be inhabited. Trees can help secure the land, and the city can offer tax incentives for that," Tano said.

De la Cruz said Baguio homeowners and real estate brokers should take a second look at the geological sciences.

## Monsters or angels

"I think the fears are misplaced because they are reacting more to monsters than angels. We did not propose a hazard map so we can eject people, we are offering the hazard map so people would know how to live there," he said.

He said houses on perilous sites must deal with their fate from "good engineering perspectives."

"If a house sits on top of a small sinkhole, it can extend its foundations beyond the sinkhole or seek new braces to avoid falling into them. Sinkholes are not made overnight. It takes millions, hundreds of years for one to develop, and water eats into lime for the same amount of time. So we are not dealing with new problems, unless you block the sinkholes," he said.

"Water will always look for a way down, and that will probably cause landslides instead. We are advocating mitigation measures because you cannot stop nature. You just have to live with it."



RESCUE workers dig for survivors in a house swamped by a landslide along Camp 8 in Baguio City during typhoon "Feria's" onslaught early this month.

TOOTS SOBERANO

## What Drives You



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What Drives You



CALTEX

## 'Edsa 2' launching

**T**HE BAGUIO launch of "Edsa 2: A Nation in Revolt," a photographic account of the events that led to People Power 2 in January this year, will be held at 4 p.m. on July 21 at Iggy's Inn and Restaurant on South Drive.

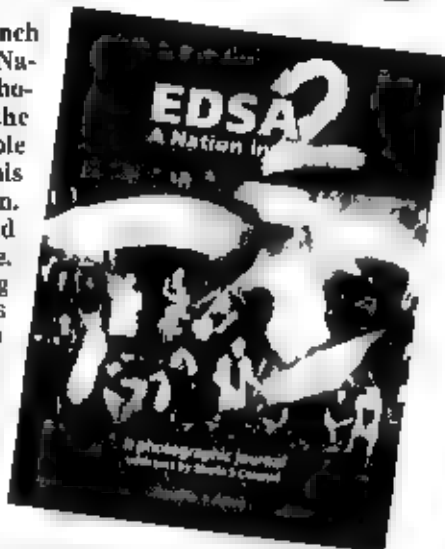
Some of the 53 leading Filipino photographers whose works are included in the 231-page journal will grace the launching.

The book, published by Anvil and AsiaPix, is not just a photographic account of the revolt against President Joseph Estrada but also a chronicle of the events that led to the downfall of the popularly elected president.

The photographs "unmask" the real Estrada and reveal that the image he projected was different from what he really was: A President who took advantage of his popularity to rob the country blind," according to the book's

back cover blurb.

An essay written by Sheila S. Coronel, director of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, leads off the 232 photographs judiciously chosen by a group led by managing photo editor Sic Balaan of AsiaPix.





# Police to do a Basilan in Metro Manila

(From page A1)

the suspects as Tirath, Harmil, Joseph and Kulwant Singh.

Judge Ma. Angelica Paras-Quambao of the municipal trial court in Magalang and Mabalacat towns in Pampanga issued the warrants for their arrest.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo also ordered the arrest of Baljit and Parmat Kaur, the wives of Tarith and Harmil, respectively, who had allegedly entered the Philippines using spurious papers.

## Starting in February

The four Indians were linked to the

abduction of Sukwinder Singh, Balwant Singh, Paul Singh Nahal and Asha Rani. They were also allegedly involved in about 20 other unreported kidnapping cases in Central Luzon's Indian community of more than 2,000 nationals.

According to reports gathered by the NBI from Indian communities, the victims were abducted starting in February in Mexico and Magalang towns in Pampanga, Gerona town in Tarlac, and San Jose City in Nueva Ecija.

The families of the victims—except for Rani, a 30-year-old businesswoman who was believed raped and killed—reportedly paid ransom of at least P1.8 million each. Rani has been missing

since Feb. 11.

The kidnappers, reportedly aided by Filipino, held the victims for an average of 30 days, releasing them only when the ransom had been paid in full.

Orlando Dizon, NBI regional director, said the crackdown on the Indian kidnappers of fellow Indians would not have been possible if the victims' relatives did not provide leads to authorities.

Dizon said the NBI had been investigating kidnapping incidents since 1998 but could not come close because of the silence of the victims' relatives.

NBI sources said the syndicate, believed led by one Jaswinder Pal, had

"outgrown" its robbery and extortion activities in the early 1980s.

It now reportedly operates in Batuan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales under the supervision of provincial handlers with connections to the police and military.

Most of the abductors are new arrivals from India who operate in tandem with longtime legal immigrants, the sources said.

They said local Indian business groups had not raised an alarm. It is the communities of Indians into small retail and lending businesses who are doing so.

"We are urging the victims and their

families to come out in the open to identify the kidnappers. We need your participation to pursue the crackdown," Dizon said.

## Corrupt cops

Tiglaio said the President had also ordered Mendoza to bear down on maling cops.

He quoted Mendoza as saying that the PNP would deploy some 2,000 new recruits from the provinces to replace the corrupt traffic cops who collect protection money from drivers.

"Mendoza said one of their solutions is to get new trainees from the provinces to replace the beat cops in Metro Manila. These are the new graduates who are still idealistic..." Tiglaio said.

"The only problem with them is that most of them don't even know where (SM) Megamall (on Edsa) is. They are very well trained, very well motivated, and they will be properly familiarized with Metro Manila where 30 percent of crimes happen."

Tiglaio said these idealistic new policemen would wear a different uniform to distinguish them from the station cops and would also report to a

central command.

At the Cabinet meeting, Mendoza gave a 10-minute situationer on peace and order.

He said the total crime volume dropped by 14 percent in the first six months of this year, compared to the same period last year.

He also said total index crimes, or crimes against persons and property, decreased by 12 percent from 19,518 to 17,348.

Non-index crimes involving violation of special laws decreased by 12 percent.

Tiglaio said the PNP was in dire need of equipment because 90 percent of its yearly budget was going to the salaries of its 110,000 uniformed and non-uniformed personnel.

"Even some of their police cars aren't that well maintained," he said.

Tiglaio said the PNP needed P1.5 billion to buy surveillance and other equipment.

He said Budget Secretary Emilio Boscodin and other Cabinet members had promised to find the needed amount.

## Gov't agents arrest 2 alleged ABB leaders

(From page A1)

porters of Estrada, who is now detained on charges of plunder and perjury.

The sources said PMLP was identified with Noli de la Cruz and Arturo Tabara, who broke away from the Communist Party of the Philippines in the early 1990s.

On Dec. 26, 1999, Tabara, the alleged chair of the Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa ng Pilipinas (RPMP), and De la Cruz, the alleged vice chair of RPMP, met with then President Estrada in Baguio City. They announced the holding of peace talks between RPMP and the government.

The RPMP's armed wing is said to be the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPP-ABB).

The Sosyalistang Kilusang Manggagawa (SKM), however, said that Singh and Marcelo were not ABB leaders but trade union organizers of SKM.

"We deny that they are ABB leaders," SKM vice president Roel Garcia told the INQUIRER last night.

Garcia said Singh and Marcelo were arrested on Commonwealth Avenue while holding a meeting with SKM members.

He said SKM was a legal organization of workers, peasants and urban poor chaired by lawyer Ernesto Arellano, head of the National Federation of Labor

## Political dissenters

"Despite Edsa I and Edsa II demands for meaningful social transformation, the military-police establishment continues to resort to practices blatantly disregarding human rights by simply labeling political dissenters as members of the communist movement," SKM said in a statement.

Garcia said the military planted the guns and the grenade allegedly seized from the two trade union organizers.

De los Santos said a joint military and police team confiscated from Singh and Marcelo two .45 cal. pistols and a fragmentation grenade.

The Army chief said the two were also in possession of documents supposedly detailing plans to disrupt Ma Macapagal's Sona. De los Santos did not disclose what these plans were.

But Army spokesperson Lt. Col Jose Mabanta said the documents indicated "no violent plans." All of these are protests and marches.

Mabanta said the civil disturbance



**CAPTURED** communist rebels Danilo Singh, alleged national commander of the Alex Boncayao Brigade, and Rolando Marcelo, alleged head of the education department of the Partido-Markista-Leninista ng Pilipinas, are presented to the media at Fort Bonifacio.

plan included a march by leftist groups on Congress, where they would protest against government's policies.

Militant groups are planning to launch rallies on Monday to highlight what they call Ma Macapagal's "failure to live up to the expectations of People Power II."

Garcia said SKM was planning to stage rallies on Monday.

The rallies are aimed at exposing Ma Macapagal as a President not serving the interests of the poor. "During her first six months in office, she did not keep her promise to fight poverty, adopt new policies and push for good governance," Garcia said.

Director Thompson Lantion, community relations chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP), said security preparations for the President's first Sona would be further tightened in light of the arrest.

Lantion said the PNP would field 1,000 additional personnel, raising to at

least 3,000 the number of police personnel to be deployed at the Batasang Pambansa where Ma Macapagal will deliver her Sona.

Singh and Marcelo are reportedly wanted for the "liquidation" of four people.

De los Santos said the two were responsible for the killing of Angelo de la Cruz, general manager of Kawasaki Philippines in November 2000, and Remedio Pascua, a resident of Bulacan, on Oct. 12, 2000.

Singh and Marcelo also reportedly had a hand in the killing of Gregorio Yaber, president of the Katipunan ng mga Kooperatibang Pangsakayan ng Pilipinas, on Sept. 14, 2000 and Enrique Alden, president of the Ugnayan ng Maralit sa Letra in Malabon, on Nov. 27, 1999.

"We expect a slowdown in liquidations as a result of their arrest," De los Santos said.

Mabanta said investigators were determining whether Singh and Marcelo

were behind the assassination of labor leader Filemon "Popoy" Lagman inside the University of the Philippines campus in Quezon City last February.

Lagman was the head of the ABB until a faction led by De la Cruz broke away from the group.

"You know Noli de la Cruz has been quiet for sometime. But the top henchman of the ABB certainly continues to have ties with the members," Mabanta said.

Lagman's group itself was a breakaway faction of the Communist Party of the Philippines, which suffered splits due to ideological differences in the early 1990s.

Mabanta said the ABB's membership had dwindled to only about 200 active members due to military successes.

The ABB and its allied organizations had earlier entered into a peace agreement with the Estrada administration. With a report from AP

## No budget for 2002 in GMA 'Sona'

(From page A1)

proposal during his Sona because the economy was then in good shape.

"But this is the first budget of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo anyway so we would like to make sure that it's realistic. That is why we cannot disclose now how much budget we will be asking for because there will still be a Cabinet meeting after the Sona," she said.

In the proposed budget, the Macapaga administration must assume a specific peso-dollar exchange for next year. It must also set the targets for revenue collection, budget deficit and economic growth rate.

The steep depreciation of the peso against the dollar the past few days and poor revenue collections amid the global economic slowdown make the setting of the national budget for 2002 difficult.

For this year, the administration adopted last year's budget of P629 billion as Congress failed to pass the pro-

posed general appropriations act for 2000 because it was preoccupied with the impeachment of former President Joseph Estrada.

The Macapagal administration later asked Congress to pass a P10.9-billion supplemental budget.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglaio said the President was concerned about the fall of the peso to its lowest since she assumed the presidency.

Tiglaio attributed the peso's fall to the pronouncement of Argentina that it would drastically cut government spending.

He said fund managers not just in Asia but the rest of the world responded to Argentina's announcement by bringing their dollars back to the United States.

Boncodin disclosed that the government posted a less-than-expected budget deficit of around P76 billion in the first six months.

"On a preliminary basis, figures show we are P4 billion below (the tar-

get)," Boncodin told Reuters.

The target for the period has been fixed at P80 billion.

Financial analysts closely watch the government's budget deficit. They have said the mounting deficit is a major negative factor for the economy.

In an earlier statement, Boncodin said weaker tax revenue in the first half of the year had been partly offset by improved collections from Customs and Treasury operations as well as unexpected privatization proceeds.

She reiterated that the government was sticking to its P145-billion budget deficit target for the first half year despite newspaper reports suggesting it planned to hike the figure to around P180 billion because of the sluggish economy.

"As of May this year, collections from fees and charges (by Customs) have exceeded by P1.2 billion the P9-billion projection," she said in the statement.

Collections by the Bureau of Treas-

ury exceeded the targeted amount by P4 billion while P489 million in privatization proceeds were received in the first five months which had not been programmed for.

The statement said efforts were ongoing to keep expenditure within programmed levels.

Tax revenues have come under pressure from the country's economic slowdown, prompting the inter-agency Development Budget Coordinating Council to scale down the income target of the Bureau of Internal Revenue for this year by P20 billion.

The revised total revenue target for 2001 is now set at P558.2 billion, the council said in a statement on Monday. In the first five months of the year the deficit reached P58.326 billion, up sharply from P28.079 billion in April but lower than the programmed figure of P61.8 billion for the period.

Boncodin said final deficit figures for the first six months will be released by next week. Reports from Juliet L. Javelana and Reuters

## Senate, House still squabbling on leadership

(From page A1)

dissension in the Senate when she admitted last week that she supported the candidacy of Sen. Frank R. Drilon though "not in public."

## Another fight

Another bitter fight is brewing in the Senate over who will chair the finance committee, the most powerful panel in the Upper Chamber.

The issue has further snagged talks among Drilon and his rivals for the Senate leadership. Senators Renato Cayetano and Joker Arroyo. The other contender is the incumbent Senate president, Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

Drilon reportedly supports the present finance committee chair, Sen. John Osmeña, Cayetano backs Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, and Arroyo is all-out for Sen. Manuel Villar.

An administration senator, a rising bell over Drilon's choice of Osmeña, an independent senator who used to be identified with the opposition and former President Joseph Estrada.

"We don't want to play footsie with the enemy," the senator told the INQUIRER.

He admitted that it is not the failed power sharing agreement that is divid-

ing the PPC contenders for the Senate's top post but the chairmanship of the finance committee.

"Our problem with Drilon is this. We cannot understand why Drilon is driving hard to give John Osmeña the finance chairmanship, considering he's not with the PPC," the senator told the INQUIRER.

"Why give the most powerful committee in the Senate to a non-PPC?" he asked, adding that Osmeña "is going to give you a headache."

Sen. Juan Flavio, who is acting as "honest broker" in the talks, admitted that the chairmanship of the finance committee has become a sore point, but denied that Drilon wants to give it to Osmeña.

"It was never discussed in my presence, it was never discussed in any of the meetings we had. Nothing," he said in a news briefing.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Drilon, but he was not available for comment. He did not return the INQUIRER's call.

## 'Killing' each other

Flavio admitted that the fight between Sergio Osmeña and Villar is heating up. Villar wants the post on the basis of the fact that he was once a Speaker of the House, the fourth highest official

of the land.

"I've heard the two have already killed each other over the matter," Flavio typically tried to make light of the ongoing struggle when asked how intense was the fight over the finance chair who oversees the budget allocation to government agencies, including pork barrel for senators and congressmen.

But Flavio did not discount the possibility that John Osmeña could also be working to reclaim his post, since he is now an independent senator.

"That's the third angle of the triangle," he said of John Osmeña.

The INQUIRER source said Drilon was backing John Osmeña so that he can draw support from the opposition should he fail to get support from the PPC.

The source said this is totally unacceptable to the administration party, which he claims already has about 14 votes to elect a president.

Besides, he said the opposition occupying key committees in the Senate will spell trouble for the Palace.

"Can Malacañang or we in the PPC allow a situation that, maybe (Panfilo Lacson) becomes chair of the peace and order committee?" the source ap-

peared incredulous.

"Can you have a situation where the majority members of the Commission on Appointments is with (Sen. Edgardo) Angara's faction? Malacañang is dead meat, what happens to (Justice) Hernandez Perez? President Macapagal's Cabinet will be sitting ducks," he said.

Angara is the opposition's lone candidate for Senate president.

He said the opposition can't wait to support Drilon to "get back into power."

On the matter of power-sharing, Flavio said Drilon has agreed to the idea and is still discussing details with Cayetano.

He said Cayetano is willing to cut his term to only one year if he is allowed to serve first. Cayetano wants to use the two remaining years to prepare for his reelection bid.

Administration senators were scheduled to have at least three more meetings yesterday evening to resolve the issues that continue to divide them.

## Abad in a corner

In the Lower House, Abad, the only serious rival of De Venecia for the speakership may have painted himself into a corner after signing a power-sharing agreement as chair of the House

committee on appropriations.

From the commanding heights of the speakership, Abad may find himself stuck with being a mere co-chair of one of the House's most powerful committees.

Abad had remained adamant about a "15-15" agreement that had been set up by PPC leaders in the House.

Under the agreement, Abad would have assumed chairmanship of the powerful committee on appropriations while Palawan Rep. Vicente Sandoval would lead the House contingent to the Commission on Appointments for 15 months.

After 15 months, Abad and Sandoval would exchange posts.

"But Congressman Abad wanted the chairmanship of the committee on appropriations to be permanent," said a Lakas source.

Disarmed by Abad's reaction, Lakas withdrew its compromise offer and downgraded its proposal to co-chairmanship of the committee on appropriations vice Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr.

Abad had lost his chance to lead the House delegation to the CA. Sandoval had already agreed to assume the post in exchange for his withdrawal from the speakership race.

As of late Monday night, Abad was

calling up Chief Justice Hilario Davide to block the transfer of the 28 to the Zamboanga City Reformatory Center.

She said she had also expressed her opposition to Southcom officials and the Fiscal's Office.

## Moro soldiers

In Davao, Adan said that while there might be a number of Moro soldiers in the AFP, they were also in the thick of the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf.

He said nobody should put religious color to the campaign.

He also said the policemen suspected of being Abu Sayyaf sympathizers were found providing weapons to the bandits.

In a press conference yesterday at the Philippine Information Agency office, Adan cited statistics showing that the AFP was winning the war against the Abu Sayyaf.

He told reporters that of the 30 encounters with the bandit group since May 27, 17 soldiers and 27 bandits were killed in the Basilan operations.

In Sulu, he said, 11 soldiers and 38 bandits were killed. Adan said there were only two objectives in the military operations: the rescue of the hostages who were still in Basilan and the neutralization of the Abu Sayyaf.

He said the government could win the war against the bandit group only when its capability is dismantled through the arrest of its leaders and the confiscation of its arms.

"That's our goal," Adan said.

## Harsh criticism

The President said the past few months had been difficult for her administration on because of the Abu Sayyaf problem. She said the military and police had "swallowed harsh criticism while remaining focused" on their mission to destroy the bandit group.

She said their efforts were beginning to pay off, with the arrest of the fourth ranking Abu Sayyaf leader, Nadzime Saabudilla alias Commander Global, on July 9.

She added that she expected more Abu Sayyaf leaders to fall.

"31 hostages have been safely secured, released or recovered by our troops, and with our people's support and cooperation, we will bring this crisis to a decisive conclusion," the President said.

She said the crackdown on the Abu Sayyaf would continue "until we put an end to lawlessness in Southern Philippines."

The President said there was a need for a more effective defense and security capability for the AFP and the PNP because of the new challenges posed by terrorists.

"The changing face of crime and insurgency must be dealt with if we are to lay the proper and safe atmosphere to promote growth and investment," she said.

Reports from Juliet Alipalano, Jonathan F. Ma, Alexander M. Young and Ayan C. Melteior, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Juliet L. Javelana in Manila

reportedly meeting with members of the Liberal Party to discuss the proposal to co-chair the committee on appropriations.

Should Abad still refuse to accept the offer, he may be left with no choice but to carry on with his fight to foil De Venecia's comeback bid to lead the House.

The election for Speaker will be held 10 a.m. July 23, just hours before President Macapagal delivers her State of the Nation Address at the Batasan Pambansa.

## Minority floor leader

In the event he loses the race, Abad would have to assume the post of minority floor leader, and ironically find himself allied with congressmen with close ties to deposed President Estrada.

"(Abad) would definitely not want to be identified as pro-Erap," said the Lakas official.

After the election for Speaker, also to be voted upon will be the Deputy Speakers for Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

As of yesterday, it was most likely that Masbate Rep. Emilio Espinosa and Iloilo Rep. Raul Gonzales would be named deputy speaker for Luzon and the Visayas respectively.



# Peso falls to 53.95 against the US dollar

(From page A2)

dollars on the spot market would continue pressuring the peso in the coming days.

Victor Valdepeñas, president of Union Bank of the Philippines, urged the BSP to intervene and stem the peso's plunge.

"What you need now is a body that has the bullet, the ammunition, the tools to be able to cool down the market and that would be the central bank," Valdepeñas told local television.

## Not yet

But Buena Ventura pointed out that the peso was not totally out of line with depreciating currencies in the region.

"Not yet," he said when asked about possible BSP intervention. "If it is speculative, we will not hesitate to come in."

Asked by reporters whether the BSP would adjust overnight rates to help the peso, Buena Ventura said: "No, because this is not driven by interest rates but purely market forces. We're not totally out of line with other currencies."

The overnight borrowing rate is now at 9.0 percent and the lending rate is 11.25 percent.

Buena Ventura attributed the peso's current weakness to the imbalance of demand and supply—a temporary condition, according to him, until more dollar flows come in. He did not say where the liquidity was likely to come from.

Asked if the Philippines would consider using a recent currency swap agreement with Japan to defend its currency, the BSP governor said: "We still have \$14.5 billion gross international reserves. We don't really need it. What we're trying to avoid is to set a rate that is not supply-demand driven."

Mania and Tokyo reached a basic agreement last week to set up a dollar-peso swap facility, expected to be around \$3.0 billion, as part of an Asia-wide currency safety net to fend off future financial crises.

## Futile

Analysts agreed it would be futile for the central bank to try to arrest the peso's decline given the limited weapons at its disposal.

They said the country could also derive some advantages from a weaker currency. The peso has now lost almost 6 percent of its value this year.

"I don't think they (BSP officials) should be considering either option... With intervention, you'll end up throwing money into the market and it will say thank you very much. A tighter interest rates environment is also not good in a weakening economy," said Andrew Fung, Rabobank Singapore head of research for Asia/Pacific.

Keon Lee, JP Morgan deputy head of Asian economics, shared Buena Ventura's view that an interest rate hike was not the way to go.

"Buena Ventura learned back in October 2000 that raising interest rates by 400 basis points does not do anything to the exchange rate if the underlying reason is political," the Hong Kong-based Lee said.

The BSP raised rates by 4 percent last October to try to defend the peso that was reeling from the "Juetengate" scandal involving then President Joseph Estrada.

Fung said a weaker peso would still bring some benefits to the economy.

Export earnings would be bolstered, the central bank would preserve precious international reserves and letting the peso track the weakening economy would avoid the danger of misalignment with regional currencies.

But the cost of imports, such as oil and electronic components, would rise. A weaker currency would also push prices of imported goods and raise the cost of servicing foreign loans.

## Bleak outlook

According to Fung, the peso's overall direction will be determined by the yen, which has dropped more than 8 percent this year.

He said his bank saw the peso falling to 55 per dollar by the end of the year.

Barclay's Capital in Singapore painted a more bearish outlook, saying in a recent strategy report that the peso could fall to around 60 to the dollar in a year's time.

The slump in electronics exports, which makes up to 60 percent of exports, was unlikely to improve. Foreign investment also looked grim given the law and order problems and Southeast Asia's attractiveness

as an investment destination, the weekly report said.

In addition, foreign remittances were unlikely to improve due to the economic slowdown in Asia and the Middle East, the main destinations for Filipino migrant workers.

## BAP to cooperate

Buena Ventura said the Bankers Association of the Philippines had agreed to take steps to arrest speculation against the peso.

"They (BAP officers) promised to take the necessary steps, and we took it in good faith," Buena Ventura said. He did not elaborate on the measures the banks will implement.

The central bank is currently investigating 10 banks for allegedly violating currency trading rules.

BAP president Placido Mapa said the central bank met with the BAP on Monday and expressed concern that the industry practice known as churning was exacerbating pressure on the local currency.

Churning involves banks buying and selling dollars to each other purely for capital gain without any underlying trade-related purpose, such as buying the US currency to pay for imports.

Mapa said the heads of banks "indicated a willingness to cooperate" when asked by Buena Ventura to curb the practice.

He said the proposed anti-money laundering bill was also discussed.

Mapa said the BAP was supportive of the bill as long as it preserved "the existing protection of depositors regarding their concerns that

the lifting of secrecy might expose them to kidnappers and to abusive BIR agents."

The Philippines, along with Russia and the Pacific Island of Nauru, has been given an ultimatum to take concrete steps by Sept. 30 to combat money laundering or face sanctions.

The Paris-based Financial Action Task Force has singled out the three countries from a longer blacklist of "uncooperative jurisdictions" on the issue.

## Hedge facility

For his part, Buena Ventura said the BSP was considering expanding a dollar-hedging program to ease pressure on the peso.

The central bank's hedging facility, or currency rate risk protection program, is designed to provide non-deliverable forward cover to local businesses that are concerned about a decline in the exchange rate.

Buena Ventura said the program might be expanded to include new investments and debt up to five years in maturity, following a proposal from local banks.

At present the scheme's maximum coverage period is only 180 days.

"We have not made up our mind but we are still studying the proposal. It's worth pursuing," Buena Ventura said.

"What we are trying to avoid is a temporary imbalance where people are not bringing in funds (dollars into the market)," he said.

# Asians cut back on frills, opt for value-for-money deals

ASIANS are continuing to buy expensive items such as houses and cars despite the economic downturn, but are cutting back on fitness classes, according to a regional survey.

The Straits Times Asia poll on spending patterns showed that designer clothes and dining out were also off the menu as consumers were opting for long-term investments and value-for-money deals.

"I have actually sold more houses this year than in the past two years," said Yanti Handayani, who works for an Indonesian real estate company.

But the survey of middle-class consumers in 11 Asian economies found 44 percent of the respondents knew someone who had lost his job because of the downturn, and 52 percent were bracing for the economic climate to worsen.

"Anything that can be saved, we try to save," said Randy Cheng, 37, the director of operations at a Singapore travel agency.

"If I can have a 3-dollar meal, why should I have a 5-dollar one," Cheng said.

But the mood is not all pessimism with close to 16 percent expecting their earnings to increase this year. 38 percent said their income would stay the same despite profit warnings and job cutbacks.

"The economic downturn is a temporary thing. It will pass," said Zhong Ming, a 27-year-old consultant in China.

The most optimistic views on earnings emerged from the Philippines and Japan. South Koreans and Singaporeans believed their income would go down.

As to the cause of the downturn, 34 percent blamed their own government compared to 29 percent who recognized the cause in external factors such as the US economic slowdown.

Whatever the cause, 62 percent said they were now more discriminating in their personal spending in areas such as fitness classes and buying cosmetics, while 45 percent were more inclined to buy non-brandname goods.

Almost 50 percent are eating at less expensive restaurants and 35 percent have postponed a holiday.

But when questioned about spending money on a house or car, 43 percent said their plan had not been put off by the downturn, compared to 38 percent who said they

The poll was conducted in the Philippines, China, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, India, Indonesia, Thailand, Taiwan and Hong Kong. **AFP**

# Smoking...

(From page A1)

sumption is not a drain on the budget of the Czech Republic partly because the early death of smokers helped offset medical expenses.

The report, which was released in the Czech Republic several weeks ago, sparked a new burst of outrage from anti-tobacco groups. One group called it "cruel."

The US-based Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids said the report showed the tobacco company's disregard for public health.

"Would a responsible, reformed tobacco company tell foreign governments that dead smokers are a good thing for their budgets?" asked campaign president Matthew Myers.

"The same Philip Morris that has spent millions of dollars on a public relations campaign to convince the American public that it is now a responsible company, is also telling the government of the Czech Republic that smoking is good for the government's finances because of savings from early deaths caused by smoking."

"Philip Morris' cost-benefit analysis of the consequences of smoking represents not only bad economics, but also a callous disregard for life," Myers said.

The report, commissioned by Philip Morris and produced by a consulting firm, said the premature demise of smokers saved the Czech government between \$23.8 million and \$30.1 million on health care, pensions and housing for the elderly in 1999.

Even after the cost of caring for sick smokers and people made ill by second-hand smoke, the report concluded that in 1999 the government had a net gain of \$147.1 million from smoking.

## 'Shocking' report

Philip Morris, after confirming the existence of the report, which was earlier published in the Wall Street Journal and The Prague Post, was quick to say that the company was not seeking to debate the effects of smoking.

"It is absolutely not the intention of Philip Morris to try to put smoking in a positive light" for individuals or governments, said Rami Calvet, a spokesperson for Philip Morris in Europe.

Calvet acknowledged that the way the report was released "could appear rather shocking."

He said the company commissioned the report to gather economic data in the debate over how much health care for smokers costs the country.

"There's actually no intention by Philip Morris to enter the debate on tobacco and health," he said.

In a statement issued on Monday, Philip Morris International said it "deeply regrets any impression from this study that the premature death of smokers represents a ben-

efit to society."

## Die young to save money

Anti-tobacco groups lambasted the report.

"I think it's pretty egregious," said Richard Daynard, chair of the Tobacco Products Liability Project.

"You don't see other companies doing it. This is not the normal way we think about the lives of citizens, that the government benefits when they die off prematurely."

"Even if it were true that smokers dying young would save money for the economy, it's a real scary logic on which to base policy," said Patu Lyan, associate campaign director for the corporate watchdog group InFact, which has battled tobacco companies over their marketing practices.

Daynard questioned the data in the study.

He noted that the report talked about how much tobacco sales contributed to the economy, but he said it assumed that if these sales were ceased, smokers would not spend the money on other goods.

## Pressure on

In late June, the industry tried to get a hand up in a battle over tobacco advertising in the Czech Republic by proposing its own voluntary code. Pressure is building on the Czechs to amend their laws to conform to European Union norms ahead of a possible membership in 2004.

Last year the Czech government proposed, but then withdrew, a law that would have tightened existing rules.

The current law allows cigarette advertising on radio at night, advertising in cinemas, newspapers and magazines and the prominent display of company logos on billboards and streetcars.

Tobacco companies such as market leader Philip Morris have offered to ban radio and billboard advertising, stop sponsorship of events and exclude all print advertising where more than one third of the readership is under 18.

Philip Morris has about an 80 percent share of the Czech market.

## 'Bloody' reputation

Activists were not sure if Philip Morris would suffer any backlash from the Czech report.

"The interesting thing about the tobacco industry is that its reputation is already so bloody, it takes a lot for people to be shocked," Daynard said.

Just last week, Philip Morris Philippines held groundbreaking rites for its P16-billion cigarette manufacturing plant in Laguna. President Macapagal-Arroyo hailed the company as a "socially conscious" cigarette manufacturer and welcomed its investment in the country.

The facility will be fully operational by 2003 and will become Philip Morris' regional hub. It will manufacture Marlboro and Philip Morris cigarettes to be sold around Asia. Reuters and AFP

# What Drives You



## The bottomline.

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Yanson Group of Companies  
(Bochelor Express, Rural Transit, Ceres Liner)

What Drives You **CALTEX**



# Andam, 'Bata' pace Cardiff world pool

## Congress help needed

WHEN the 12th Congress opens on Monday, July 23, members of both Houses particularly sport-minded Reps. Jaime Lopez and Monico Puentevella, a former commissioner of the Philippine Sports Commission, and Sens. Robert Jaworski and Vicente Sotto III, who are both former national players, should note the plight of the differently abled athletes.

I appeal to them, for the sake of equity and fairness, to file a bill that should reward the medal winners of the Paralympic Games similar to House Bill 12029 which was recently signed into law by President Macapagal-Arroyo granting cash and other incentives to Olympic and Asian Games medalists. These differently abled athletes train and prepare for international tournaments just as hard and serious as normal athletes in their quest for glory.

Although the Paralympic Games lack the breathless media coverage of the Olympics proper, these gritty athletes with a disability deserve a better treatment from all sectors, including the government, because the Paralympic athletes are the true Olympians. As the name implies,

**CLEAN LIVING**

Manolo R. Inigo



the Paralympic Games are parallel to the Olympic Games. Held immediately after the Olympics proper, the meet is supervised by the International Paralympic Committee, a counterpart to the International Olympic Committee.

"Avid followers of the Paralympic Games will find themselves marveling—as they would at the Olympics proper—at the Paralympians' grit and exceptional ability to push the envelope of human performance," said a supporter of the Paralympics. "I've gone to many of these competitions, and I've found again and again that very quickly the spectators start to see the athletes for the sportsmen they truly are. The focus on the disability goes away very quickly."

LEONARDO Andam, Efren "Bata" Reyes and three other Filipinos moved into strong contention yesterday in making the round of 64 of the 2001 Admiral World Pool Championships in Cardiff, Wales.

With the results of the remaining matches in the preliminary round still to be completed Tuesday evening, Andam and Reyes showed the way in their respective groups.

Andam is ahead in Group 16 with 10 points on the strength of his 5-0, win-loss slate, while Reyes, the 1999 champion, is pacing Group 8 with 10 points on account of a 5-1 card.

The other Filipino cue artists expected to gain the next round are Francisco Bustamante, Rodolfo Lual and Ramil Gallego.

Bustamante is in second spot in Group 13 with eight points (3-1). Lual is also at second in Group 6 with eight points (3-2), while Gallego is running third in Group 1 with eight points (4-1).

Two more Puyat Sports-backed Filipino bets—Antonio Lining and Warren Kiamco—are both in sixth spots in Groups 14 and 7, respectively.

The top four finishers of each of the 16 groups advance to the final 64 knockout stage of the \$300,000 9-ball tournament.

The four-day preliminary round

of the 2001 Admiral World Pool Championship in Cardiff, Wales, UK, ends Tuesday with the Top 4 finishers of each of the 16 groups advancing to the final 64 knockout stage of the 9-ball tournament.

With the results of the remaining matches still unaccounted for, here is how the Filipino players stand:

Leonardo Andam—5 won, 0 lost; No. 1 in Group 16 with 10 points.

Efren Reyes—5 won, 1 lost; No. 1 in Group 8 with 10 points.

Francisco Bustamante—3 won, 1 lost; No. 2 in Group 13 with 8 points.

Rodolfo Lual—3 won, 2 lost; No. 2 in Group 6 with 8 points.

Ramil Gallego—4 won, 1 lost; No. 3 in Group 1 with 8 points.

Antonio Lining—2 won, 3 lost; No. 6 in Group 14 with 6 points.

Warren Kiamco—2 won, 3 lost; No. 6 in Group 7 with 4 points.

Their remaining matches:

Reyes vs George San Souci (USA).

(This is the fourth day of the day's matches scheduled for live showing by ESPN starting at 9 p.m. Tuesday, Manila time.)

Andam vs Michael Schmidt (Germany)

Bustamante vs Majid Miran (England)

Lual vs Dimitri Jungo (Switzerland)

Lual vs Paul Davies (Wales)

Gallego vs Fong Pang Chao (Taiwan)

Gallego vs Quinten Hann (Australia)

Lining vs Peter Nielsen (Denmark)

Lining vs Daryl Peach (England)



ANDAM: Keeping abreast with Bata.

FILE PHOTO

## Ballesteros Maxi champ

DEFENDING champion Geoffrey Ballesteros of Castrol survived a gutsy stand by Randy Ortiz of R.C. Car Exchange and Ricky Montellano of 2211-Elf Racing to rule the third round of the Maxi Scooter Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas recently.

Ballesteros, who bagged the title with a dramatic victory over Carlo Yalo of Exact last year, held off both Ortiz and Montellano in the one-day event sponsored by Elf Lubricants, Castrol, Silkolene, Red Bull, Liama's Supermarket, 2211-Cycle Works, Pirelli Exact and Malossi.

Equally impressive was last year's winner Robby Inigo of 2211-Cycle Works, who ruled the geared class over perennial rival A. fie Lim of Castrol-Period Racing and Dennis Banez of Elf-2211.

Inigo won over Lim and Banez, who enjoyed 1-2 positions in the overall standings.

## Osaka CEO sports chair

OSAKA Iridology CEO and sportsman Jonathan Guardo was named new chair of the Cebu City Sports Commission.

Guardo's appointment was announced by Cebu City Councilor Jack Jakosien along with four others—businessman-athlete Jay Aldeguer, Freeman sports editor Nimrod Quinselles, Fort president Roly Jonico and fitness guru Calixto Pacquiao—who were also tapped as commissioners.

"These people are equally qualified and have committed their lives to sports," said Jakosien. "We want people who have the time and also the desire to do the job."

Guardo said he was honored and grateful to Jakosien and Cebu City Mayor Tommy Osmeña for their confidence in him and "for giving me this opportunity to serve."

## Chariot, Lhuillier Cebu winners

CEBU CITY Chariot Metro Cab Skygo and M Lhuillier prevailed over separate rivals yesterday to start their title bids on a positive note in the Cebu Basketball League Commissioner's Cup at the New Cebu Coliseum.

The Chariot Skygoos needed an extra period to squeeze out a hard-earned 81-79 thriller over a revitalized Osaka Iridology while the Jewelers, beefed up by former Shell import Bobby Parks, banked on experience to turn back ML Kwarto Padala.

Reggie Lucinda and defense specialist Gary Cortes took charge with 15 points apiece while Bernice Ursal added 13 as Chariot uncorked a decisive 8-1 run in overtime and leaned on its experience to repulse a five-game uprising by Osaka, now under the helm of new head coach Elmer "Boy" Cabahug.

The scores:  
First Game  
M Lhuillier 78—Parks 24, Dumdam 13, Smith 9, Alvarado 7, Enriquez 6, Ocanada 2, Sampelo 2, Libatog 2.  
ML Kwarto 75—Guerrero 14, Romeo 12, Reampagos 11, Lim 11, Canono 6, Tundag 6, Cabrera 4, Lumanlat 4, Lim 3.  
Halftime: 42-38  
Second game  
Chariot 81—Leanda 15, Cortes 15, Ursal 13, Mercado 11, Capulalan 9, De la Victoria 8, Sumampam 8, Estrera 2, Veleco 2.  
Osaka 78—Maglassang 21, Trumpeta 17, Suarez 12, Uy 10, Morsuenda 8, Taring 6, Gungbet 4, Elm 2.  
Halftime: 37-36

## 21 Filipinos start action in World Junior Golf

SAN DIEGO, California—The Philippines, represented by 21 teenagers, will start its campaign in the 34th Junior World Golf championship today on eight courses here.

The last time a Filipino won here was Dorothy Joy Delasin in the girls 15-17 years in her final appearance in 1998. Among the other previous winners include Carlo Villamor, Ramon Brobio, Carmelita Villamor and Cosco Oben.

Former national champion Artemio Murakami plays in the boys 15-17 in his final start against 236 of the

world's best.

There are a total of 1,056 players entered in five age divisions.

"We have assembled the most prepared contingent and we look forward to some positive results," said Amalia Montecillo, chair of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines.

Jayvee Agojo and Tontis Asistio are favored to win in their divisions after they won last week in the Temacula International.

Like Murakami, Agojo and Asistio are the standouts of a 10-leg summer tour.

Three Filipino kids in the 6-8 class may deliver for the RP team.

Joshua Uy has come to the US early to familiarize himself with the conditions at the pitch-and-putt Presidio Hills.

The other members are Dollie Ardina, Angela de Villa, Keenan Ugarte, Don Padilla, Mary Grace Cruz, Katrina Gonzales, J. Agojo, Zandra Dizon, Martin Mediana, DJ Padilla, IG Gutierrez, Asistio, Alejandro, Geneleen Handoog, Erlan Lumanog, John Abdon, Rei Medelstomas, Deborah De Villa and John Carlos.

## Lopez: We'll win back boxing glory in SEAG

BY DENNIS U. EROA

MANNY Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines, yesterday said the nationals are going to make a determined bid to win the overall trophy in the Kuala Lumpur 21st Southeast Asian Games in September.

"We worked tirelessly despite the dire economic situation because we re-keen in recapturing the overall title in Malaysia," Lopez told the weekly PSA Sports Forum sponsored by Agfa Color and Red Bull at the Holiday Inn.

The Philippines larded it over the ring in the 1991 and 1993 SEAG in Manila and Singapore, respectively, before getting overshadowed by the mighty Thais in the 1995, 1997 and 1999 editions of the biennial Games.

But Lopez is confident that the Filipino boxers, toughened by a no-holds-barred buildup which took them to seven prestigious international tournaments, will give the world-class Thais a run for their money in the Malaysian capital. "The boys are in good condition. We need to play our cards right and do our best to unseat the Thais."

No doubt, Thailand is again our main rival for supremacy," said Lopez.

Lopez also bared a tentative list composed of 11 regulars and 6 alternates for the national team. Like Thailand, the Philippines will see action in the lightest (proweight) and the heaviest class (light-heavyweight) in Kuala Lumpur.

Surprisingly, however, Sydney Olympian Danny Lerio didn't make it to the list. Lopez explained that Lerio, a light-flyweight, got affected by personal problems and failed to hurdle the tough qualifiers set by Abap.



LOPEZ

## Rizal Techno U advances to football finals

RIZAL Technological University proved unbeatable, whipping five teams, to advance to the Aug. 25 finals of the inaugural Lupovitan 4 on 4 soccer campus tour recently at the Don Bosco Technical College Gym in Mandaluyong City.

Bannered by Antonio Jason, Earl Don Torres, Charlie Aquino, Aldrin de los Angeles and Jay Roa, the RTU kickers downed their counterparts from Don Bosco, Jose Rizal University, Savio Youth Center, Alumni of Don Bosco

and Industrial Technician Center in succession before an enthusiastic crowd. RTU is being coached by Pat Macalino.

Organized by Pro-Adie, Inc. with Dexter M. Araquel as project director, the tournament is co-sponsored by Mizuno, Magic 89.9, Excel Press, Powerplant Rockwell Center. The national finals will be held at the Rockwell Center.

Aside from the Don Bosco climax, games will also be held at UP-Diliman,

UST, College of St. Benilde, Southridge, UP Los Baños, Don Bosco Technical Institute-Tarlac.

The next qualifier will be held on July 20 at the Don Bosco Technical Institute at Makati City. Competing in the girls' division are Assumption College, Colegio San Agustin and Savio Youth Center, while the boys' side features host Don Bosco Technical Institute, Colegio de San Agustin and Tulay an Don Bosco.

Araquel said the 4 on 4 is fast-paced and full of thrills. Among the salient points in its rules are: 1) there is no offside, 2) games are 10 minutes each played in two 5-minute halves, 3) referee throws the ball into play to start the game and after each goal, goalkeepers may not score goals aside from not handling the ball with their hands from a backpass. Goalies must also leave the penalty area, no corners and all free kicks are indirect.

Phi up A vendia won second in both AF3 races. International racing veteran Mark Gokkara Pepon Marave split third place in races 5 and 6, respectively. Marave actually finished second behind Silverio in race 5 but was "DQ" when his car weighed underweight.

## Silverio cops both races of Asian Formula

JOJO Silverio of Standard Insurance-KACE Electronics-Team Tom's dominated both races of the 3rd leg of the six-leg Philippine Asian Formula 3 Challenge (F3) during the Casino Filipino Grand Prix recently at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Silverio said: "It's a good win! I got a big overall lead. I'm now comfortable with my car, thanks to my team. I'm

sure I can still improve a lot having sized up my competitors."

Silverio's best 16-lap time in the 2.873 km BRC track is 23:45.385, the fastest lap time was 1:13.674 in race 5. Teammates JP Tuason and Roland Hennesco of the Standard Insurance-KACE Toyota Alabang team supported by Petron finished first and second, re-

spectively, in Race 5 of the Formula Toyota Cup (FT). Hennesco dominated both races of the first leg in April.

Tuason said the sixth race was his best race ever—trailing the lead many times with Enzo Pastor who edged Tuason 1:12 seconds, finishing 44 1/4 seconds behind Silverio's 20:45.302 total time in the re-started 14-lap com-

bined F3-FT race. Kirk Aramburo trailed third in both rounds.

Phi up A vendia won second in both AF3 races. International racing veteran Mark Gokkara Pepon Marave split third place in races 5 and 6, respectively. Marave actually finished second behind Silverio in race 5 but was "DQ" when his car weighed underweight.

## Dream Fight: Pacquiao vs Espinosa

OK, a joke.  
A joke?  
I guess not.

A couple of readers wrote to say they want Manny Pacquiao, the recently crowned world super bantamweight champion, to fight Luisito Espinosa, the former two-time world champion (bantamweight and featherweight).

"Let's make it a non-title fight," said the first reader. "Remember, Pacquiao used to be a flyweight. Now he is a bantam. I believe he'll go on growing, and accumulating those poundage. I will not be surprised if he'd soon gain for the featherweight crown."

"Since Espinosa is on the comeback trail," said the second reader, "one way to test him would be to pit him against Pacquiao. Forget about

**SPECTATOR**

Al S. Mendoza



their weight. It's a non-title fight, anyway."

One of proponents of the "Dream Fight" is T.M. Reynoso of the LWUA Public Affairs Department.

What do you think, fellas?

If you ask me, I think the idea is sound. I want to see it happen, actually. Betot Eborde should give it a serious thought. He could hit a blockbuster card with this one. Complete with a TV

coverage. With Jimmy Lennon as the ring announcer, yet.

How about Rudy Salud, the manager of Gerry Peñalosa? What does he think?

Well, the good lawyer may try to work something out of this. Good for Philippine boxing, don't you think so, Pareng Mama? I've always known you to be always championing the cause of Philippine boxing. This one deserves your attention, Pare.

Both fighters will look good should they agree to fight since an encounter would mean they'd be doing it more for the Filipino than boxing. A good idea would be to stage it as a benefit fight. Meaning, it'd be a non-profit venture. The proceeds could go to the victims of the Mayon Volcano eruption—o to Gerard Cantada. Or, if you want some international impact, donate the gate

earnings to the ransom demand of the Abu Sayyaf gang if only to lampoon the rapaciousness of the conscienceless Abus.

I'm sure Espinosa, now training hard in San Francisco under the wings of Noel Rivera, will agree to the fight. He's rising to climb the ring again. And, against Pacquiao, it's going to be a big break in his comeback bid.

But Pacquiao?

He'll think twice, I know. But, if I were Pacquiao, I'll say yes. This is one time when he can show, in all sincerity, his oneness with the nation. For, this is not just a fight. This is also a test—of one's patriotic fervor, if not character. This is not a joke, fellas.

Will the promoter with a heart for charity please step forward then? It will be easy from there.

## Navy grabs Utilco lead

NAVY blanked Kaya, 3-0, to assume solo leadership in the 1st Army-Utilco International invitational football tournament last Sunday at the Ascom field in Fort Bonifacio.

Marion Pinerio, Jimmy Dona and Randy Jalbuena struck in the 23rd, 41st and 83rd minutes, respectively, to power the Navymen to their second straight win in the tourney organized by Army, sponsored by Utilco International Trading Corp. and sanctioned by the Philippine Football Federation.

Favored Army and Air Force also bumbled their respective rivals to share second place at 1-1, while San Beda shut-out PCU Taft, 3-0, in the other games. The Armymen blasted PCU Dasmariñas, 8-0, while the Airmen crushed College of St. Benilde, 6-0.

Tournament officials Saied Nikpassand, Capt. Ferdinand Espejo Jr. and M/Sgt. Jesus Barro Jr., who graced yesterday's PSA Forum, bared that Utilco president Butch Webber sponsored the tourney "as a sign of gratitude to the sport, being a former football player himself."

## Montoya, Asuela top Shell chess

BACOLOD—Local defend ng champions Edsel Montoya and Eslan Asuela took the top slots in their respective brackets in the Western Visayas leg of the 2001 Shell National Youth Active Chess Championships.

The seven-round Swiss format tournament is co-sponsored by PLDT, Solid Shipping Lines Corp. and the Shell-Cubank Mastercard.

Top seed Montoya, a 17-year-old high school senior from La Carlota City, watched 6.5 points in seven games to grab the junior division gold medal, P5,000 in cash and a ticket to the national grand finals.

Silver medalist Ervil Villa, a Colegio de San Agustin Bacolod management student, earned P3,000 plus a finalist slot. Veteran Shell chess kiddie campaigner Asuela went undefeated in seven games. He took the kiddie division gold medal, P4,000 and a seat to the finals. Second-seeded Roque Quebrar took the silver medal, P3,000 and a finalist slot.

Bacolod's West Negros College fielded 30 entries to earn the "Schools Most Represented Award" while 4-year-old Vincent Karl Lopez took the "Youngest Participant Award." About 30 percent of the 305-entry list were female chess players.



**AL S. MENDOZA, Editor**  **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor**

**Games Today**  
(PhilSports)  
5 p.m.—Red Bull vs  
Purefoods  
8 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs  
Mobiline

Standings	W	L
San Miguel	7	2
Red Bull	6	2
Purefoods	5	3
Alaska	5	4
Sta. Lucia	4	4
Ginebra	4	5
Mobiline	3	5
Pop Cola	3	6
Tanduay	3	6
Shell	3	6

**BY JUNE NAVARRO**

For information, please call the PBA office at 638-1815 to 17 and look for Joy Lopez and Hazel Ancheta

**Games Today**  
(Arnullo Centrum Gym, Cabanatuan City)  
3 p.m.—Socsargen vs Cebuana Lhuillier  
5:30 p.m.—Fedex Laguna vs Nueva Ecija

Meanwhile, Soerabaja, currently at the bottom of the standings with a 2-8 slate, hopes to erase the stigma of its last visit to Cabanatuan City when it shoots for a win over fancied Cebuana Lhuillier in the curtain-raiser at 3 p.m.

Rich Alvarez (10) of Ateneo finds his finger entangled in the net after scoring on a layup against the La Salle Archers during their UAAP game last Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum. Looking on from left are Ramier Sison (Ateneo), Mika Vainio (La Salle) and Paolo Bugia (Ateneo). The Archers prevailed 91-78.



IN celebration of its 75<sup>th</sup> diamond anniversary, Miriam College will host the 32<sup>nd</sup> season of the Women's National Collegiate Athletic Association (WNCAA) this school year. The theme is "Vision and Values Through Sports for a New Century." The WNCAA season opens at 8 a.m. on Aug. 4 at the Philippines in Pasig City. Presidents of all the participating schools will grace the occasion. Miriam College President Dr. Patricia B. Licuanan will give the welcome remarks. Participating schools are Angelicum College, Assumption College, Chang Kai Shek College, College of St. Benilde, Colegio De San Lorenzo, De La Salle Zobel, Lyceum of the Philippines, Miriam College, Raza Technological College, Siena College Quezon City, St. Benedict College, St. Scholastica's College, St. Stephen's High School and the University of Assumption Pampanga. The WNCAA is headed by its president Miriam Manila.

**AIX-LES-BAINS, France**—After 10 days of racing, Lance Armstrong's Tour de France is just starting. Nine stages and a prologue left the two-time defending champion 23rd in the overall standings, 35 minutes and 19 seconds behind the yellow jersey-wearer, Stuart O'Grady. That was before the Tour hit the mountains. From Tuesday, riders spend five stages tackling exceptionally difficult climbs that force many competitors to abandon the event. Armstrong was expected to make his mark on the race in the first mountain stage, a 209-kilometer (129.79-mile) stretch from Aix-les-Bains to L'Alpe d'Huez, high in the French Alps.

**MONTREAL**—Wimbledon champion Goran Ivanisevic will skip the Tennis Masters Series Canada in order to rest as injured shoulder. After his unexpected triumph at the All England Club two weeks ago, Ivanisevic postponed shoulder surgery to meet a crowded tennis schedule. But since he has already earned a spot in this fall's Masters Cup championship, the Croat can afford to miss the Montreal tournament, which runs from July 28-Aug. 5. However, he plans to play the Hamlet Cup, a US Open tuneup in New York held Aug. 18-26. **AP**

TWO of the country's most exciting featherweights—No. 6 ranked Fernando Montilla and No. 9 Arnan Molina—close in the San Miguel Beer main event of the popular weekly boxing show *Blow by Blow* at 10 tonight over Viva Television—IBC 13. The 23-year-old Montilla of Davao has a record of 26 wins, 17 by knockout, while the 30-year-old Molina from Misamis Oriental has a record of 37 wins with 10 knockouts. IBF world super bantamweight champion Manny Pacquiao, a product of "Blow by Blow" will be special guest at the fights.

**HOUSTON** — Vinny Castilla's tiebreaking, three-run double in the eighth inning helped Houston come back from five runs down to beat Cleveland 10-8 in a thriller.

**Rookie starting pitcher**

AMERICAN LEAGUE  
East

City	W	Fri	Sat
Albany	54	37	593
Boston	64	38	667
Chicago	44	48	472
Los Angeles	4	51	346
New York	36	43	323

City	W	Fri	Sat
Albany	57	35	628
Boston	5	38	567
Chicago	48	45	388
Los Angeles	33	58	340
New York	36	56	399

City	W	Fri	Sat
Albany	65	26	717
Boston	48	44	622
Chicago	64	43	478
Los Angeles	38	54	415

Participant	Lini		Fol	Q8
	W	L		
Participant 1	52	40	100	3
Participant 2	54	44	100	3

Country	1990	1991	1992
Algeria	27	47	294
Angola	47	46	585
Burkina Faso	42	52	467
Cameroon	55	54	419
Chad	33	35	582
Cote d'Ivoire	51	49	598
Egypt	45	45	585
Guinea	43	48	477
Kenya	35	56	395
Madagascar	35	37	368
Mali	51	41	587
Morocco	44	39	587

Est. Depth	44	49	473	70
Coldest day	48	32	435	14

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# METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

## Pizza delivery boy strangled by dangling telephone line

BY JEROME ANING

A PIZZA delivery boy on a motorcycle died in a freak accident in Ermita, Manila before dawn yesterday. He ran into a severed, dangling telephone line that caught him in the neck and strangled him.

The phone line tightened around the neck of Rolan Nolasco, 21, as one end was caught and pulled tight by a passing jeepney, stranding the young man and dragging his body on the street, said SPO4 Virgo Villareal of the Western Police District homicide section.

Nolasco, a delivery boy of Shakey's Pizza in Malate and a resident of 578 Hermosa Street Extension in Gagalangin, Tondo, had just delivered pizza to a customer in Tondo and was on his way back to the pizza parlor when the accident took place, police said.

Villareal said the phone cable that runs along M H Del Pilar Street was severed when it was hit by a cement mixer truck around 11:30 p.m. Monday.

Around 2:30 a.m., both the jeepney and Nolasco's motorcycle were on the south-bound lane of M H Del Pilar when the dangling phone line got snagged on the jeepney's right side mirror.

The wire caught the neck of Nolasco, who was overtaking the jeepney. As Nolasco struggled to get the wire off, the jeepney continued to move fast, tightening the wire and strangling the delivery boy, police said.

Nolasco's body was pulled off the motorcycle and was dragged by the jeepney for several meters.

Witnesses later told SPO4 Villareal that the unidentified driver stopped the jeepney and got off, but only to untie the wire from his side mirror. Then he boarded and drove away.

Hans Ramos, a passenger of a passing FX taxi, saw the accident and brought Nolasco to the Ospital ng Maynila, where the victim was pronounced dead.

## 1 killed, 2 wounded in running gunfight

BY NELSON F. FLORES

POLICE yesterday killed one suspected robber and wounded two others in a running gun battle that started in Makati City and ended in Parañaque.

Senior Supt. Jose Gutierrez, Southern Police District director, identified the dead suspect as Richard Balatingaw, a resident of Manila. Balatingaw died on the way to the Ospital ng Makati.

The wounded suspect, Raymond Solomon, 22, of Onyx Street, San Andres, Manila, is in critical condition in the same hospital, Gutierrez said.

1 KILLED/A24

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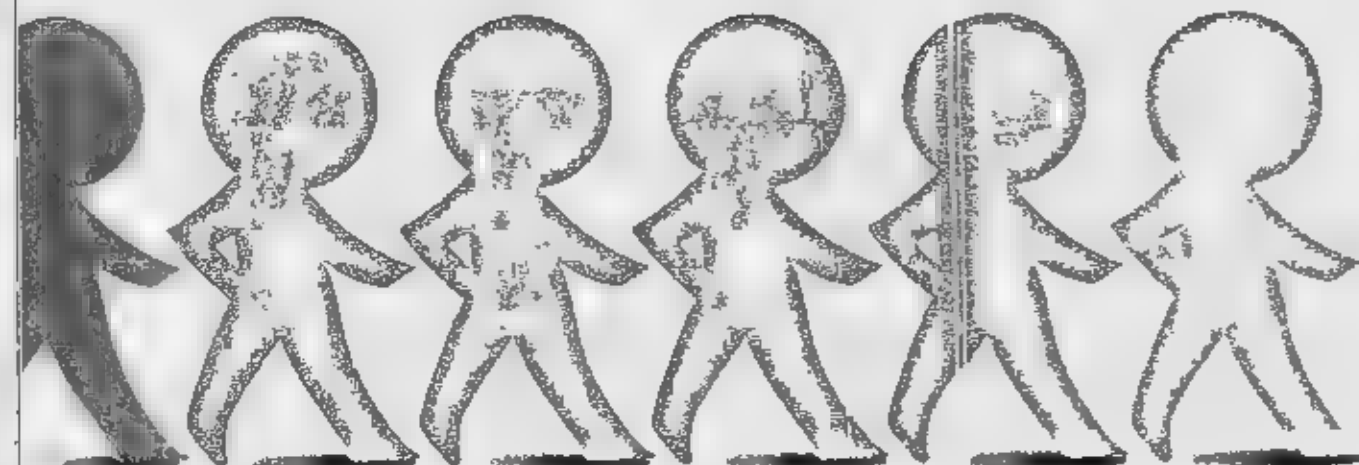
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# Murderer of granny gets death

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

THE QUEZON City Regional Trial Court yesterday sentenced to death a man who robbed and brutally murdered his own 76-year-old grandmother two years ago.

Branch 103 Judge Jaime Sakazar sent Alfredo Montañana Ramos Jr., of Talapa in Novales, Quezon City, to the death chamber after he found the accused guilty of killing his grandmother, Melissa Montañana, inside her home at 15 San Antonio de Padua St. at Villa Sabana Subdivision in Talapa.

Ramos was said to have been high on illegal drugs when he killed his grandmother, a retired schoolteacher, on June 10, 1999.

The judge ordered Ramos to pay the victim's family a total of P205,750 in damages.

## 1 killed, 2 wounded...

(From page A23)

A third man identified only as Ryan managed to escape, although police believed he, too, was critically wounded in the exchange.

Gutierrez said a manhunt was underway for the third man, who he said could also bleed to death if he would not surrender immediately.

Gutierrez said police teams under Chief Insp. Eduardo Balmaceda, Makati City police operations chief, had waited in strategic parts of the South Luzon Expressway after they received reports that three men on board a Toyota Corolla had been robbing motorists on the highway since Monday night.

At 4:30 a.m., a police unit detailed at the Merville-Kalayaan Road Exit of the expressway spotted the suspects on board the Corolla (URE 375) and tried to flag them down.

But the suspects reportedly refused

to slow down and even opened fire at the lawmen just as the Corolla sped past the checkpoint on the southbound lane of the expressway, Gutierrez said.

The lawmen pursued the suspects. Other police units joined the chase, which soon turned into a full-blown shootout, Gutierrez said.

But the suspects lost control of their car and smashed into a concrete barrier of the expressway, Gutierrez said.

Police found the two suspects in the car. The third suspect managed to flee. Makati investigators said the suspects were responsible for at least three robberies on the South Luzon Expressway since Monday night.

Among their recent victims were Allan Batalyer, Dennis Mallari and Christian Yango. Investigators said the suspects took the cellular phones, jewelry and cash of the victims while they were driving on the expressway Monday night and early Tuesday morning.

THEY confessed to the misdeed and said they have returned the missing goodies intended for distressed boxers in the Mandalayong City stable.

They said they did not mean to do it.

Forget about everything, I told them.

They left looking very relieved and walked under the thin evening drizzle.

They themselves looked lost, and I

dered. I knew they had had to help themselves to the donated goodies on a of necessity. They have their own hungry children to feed.

How I wished I could've given them something. But the remaining extra cans of tuna and packets of instant noodles, which I had handed the night before to a godson who was uprooted after the factory in the next barangay where he worked closed shop.

Canting, with three kids to feed, now stays in Lagna, earns P160 a day and walks to the poultry feed factory where he works.

You're luckier, I told this godson, because many poor families here practically have to scratch the earth every day to avoid going cold and hungry.

Anyway, we are supposed to feel a little relieved.

The Mandalayong City government, through Mayor Benhur Abalos, has vowed renewed support for the boxers in its stable who had threatened to mutiny last week.

## The se, indeed, are very trying times

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad



You see, there has been renewed enthusiasm over boxing here following the sensational world title triumph of Manny Pacquiao in Las Vegas.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, herself looking very excited, battled for the modernization of professional boxing in the Philippines.

She indeed sounded sincere and serious in voicing her intent.

Sorry, but so far, nothing significant has been done by sports authorities to put flesh to the President's lofty plans for boxing.

Last heard of, the President even congratulated herself for having won over enormous investments from Philip Morris whose products, no doubt, will lessen the chances of countless young citizens to excel in boxing and other sports.

It's now easy to suspect, after her display of genuine concern, that the President's announced plans would not even reach the planning stage.

President Macapagal indeed earned some solid points with her announced support for the sport that had given the

country its brightest moments internationally.

But those points will have to be nullified until the so-called modernization (of boxing) is able to take off the ground.

Anyway, Sen. Gringo Honasan has written this reporter a personal note to thank us for the "effort to establish an academy for aspiring boxers."

Said Honasan: "Such an endeavor would greatly help young fighters ranging to slug it out in the ring while learning the basics of the sport. Rest assured that you can count on my support for your worthy cause."

He also said he would file a bill in the 12th Congress on providing incentives for athletes who excel in international competitions.

Now, for an update on the proposed boxing academy.

Jimmy Zuno, a fight manager who has helped send several Filipino boxers abroad, has come up with a planned curriculum.

As you very well know, sportsman Tony Aldeguez has wholeheartedly offered the facilities of his modern gym in Cebu for the endeavor.

Sportsman Rudy Sulud says he's 110 percent behind the project; while his ward, Gerry Peñalosa, has offered to be one of the resource persons.

Last week, Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) president Lito Tacujan agreed to help run and supervise the planned academy.

Everything is being carried out very carefully to ensure its success.

And it would indeed be great if the academy doesn't end up as the undertaking of a single individual alone but of one or two prestigious institutions like the PSA and a big commercial firm.

No, we can no longer hope and pray for presidential blessing or support.

We know too well how President Macapagal is practically down on her knees trying to solve all the monumental problems and troubles hounding and hobbling her administration and the distressed Filipino people.

You see, we even dared to play it very pretty and write about the missing donated goodies for hungry boxers in one city gym.

As we had noted earlier it was hard to truly blame those who had helped themselves to the donated goods.

These are very trying times indeed.

Look, if the President herself could risk the health of countless citizens, young and old alike, by hosting a certified cancer machine like Philip Morris, we cannot condemn other poor souls who had to do anything to avoid dying of hunger.

Let's just hope and pray that the enormous foreign tobacco investments on local shores would not end up as an idea to help fund the modernization of RP boxing, as had been proposed by the President.

It would no longer be funny, if that happens.

## Atienza sets land-swap deadline

BY JEROME ANING

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday said he is giving government agencies and private groups who want to save the Mehan Gardens only two more weeks to convince the Department of Tourism to give up the old Ateneo de Manila lot in Intramuros as an alternative site for the new City College of Manila campus.

Atienza said the city government is "cagued" as the prospect of relocating the CCM campus to Intramuros, but he said the proposed land-swap "should be resolved soon because we have to prepare for next year's enrollment of CCM students."

"We want them to have a new campus by next school year," the mayor said in a press statement. He warned that if no decision would be made after two weeks, the City Hall would have no choice but to continue the construction of the new campus on the Mehan.

It has been more than a week since the search team formed by the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources identified the old Ateneo site as an alternative site for the CCM campus.

The property is administered by the Intramuros Administration, an attached agency of the DOT.

The construction of the CCM campus on the 140-year-old Mehan was ordered temporarily halted on June 28

by the DENR after the private contractor was found to have cut and pruned trees without permission.

Atienza said the city government would request the DOT to give up the property in exchange for the 24,600-square-meter Mehan.

"We will do our share in convincing the DOT to give up the property and we expect those who proposed the alternative site to make strong representations with the DOT," Atienza said.

The National Historical Institute, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the National Museum and various private conservationist and environmentalist groups want the Mehan to remain a public park to preserve its historical and

cultural legacy as the first zoological and botanical garden in the capital.

But Atienza said only one-third of the park would be used and that the new buildings would actually enhance the place.

The mayor warned that the city government "cannot wait indefinitely" for the acquisition of the old Ateneo.

"This project has been approved by the city council and there are no legal impediments," he explained. "We have to continue with our development plans for the city."

He said the City Hall would remain steadfast in its commitment to provide the poor students of the CCM the quality education that they deserve.

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Life Together.



## Shooting champ Jethro Dionisio robbed of guns

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

FORMER world speed shooting champion Jethro Dionisio lost about P2 million worth of firearms and gun paraphernalia to burglars who broke into his gun store in Quezon City.

Dionisio, of 02 Mendez Road in Baesa, Quezon City, reported to police that his Jethro International Inc. store at 49-D G. Araneta Avenue in Barangay Santol, Quezon City was burglarized Sunday, said investigator PO3 Joseph Mortel, of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Dionisio was the first Filipino to win the world speed shooting title.

Police said the robbers took 17 different firearms, three gun frames, 17 gun slides, 29 gun barrel pieces, two gun reloaders, three firing shades, a BPI check worth P21,750 and P3,500 in cash.

Dionisio, police said, is still determining if other items were taken from his store.

Police said the break-in happened while the store was closed between 11 p.m. Sunday and 7:15 a.m. Monday. The robbers apparently took advantage of the rains, police said.

The burglars entered the store by destroying the lock of the steel front door, police said.

Inside, they ransacked the store, destroying the vault and even managing to take two gun reloaders that were big and heavy and were screwed to the wall, police said.

## SPD chief foils robbery attempt, nabs 2 suspects

BY NELSON F. FLORES

SOUTHERN Police District Office Director Senior Supt. Jose Gutierrez personally foiled a robbery attempt on Monday and arrested the suspects in Makati City.

Gutierrez identified the suspects as Teresa Jalarida, 19, of M.H. Del Pilar St., Barangay Rizal, Makati City, and Reynaldo Porcioncula, 24, of Jacinto Street, Barangay Bambang, Pasig City.

Gutierrez said the suspects had just tried to rob Lino Santos, 46, a taxi driver and resident of Orquidia Street, Barangay Pembo, also in Makati City.

Investigation showed that Gutierrez, who was on his way to the SPDO headquarters in Taguig, foiled the robbery attempt about 4:30 p.m. Monday along McKinley Road in Barangay Forbes.

Gutierrez said he was on board his service vehicle when he spotted Santos running away from his taxi, which was parked on McKinley Road.

He said he also saw the suspects who were apparently about to run after Santos. He said he alighted from his vehicle and introduced himself as a law enforcer.

But upon seeing him and his close-in security personnel who were armed with M-16 rifles, the suspects immediately surrendered, Gutierrez said.

He said two fan knives were also found on the suspects.

Upon interrogation, the suspects told Gutierrez that Porcioncula wanted to celebrate his 24th birthday but had no money so they decided to stage a robbery.

Santos said the robbers flagged his taxi down near the Guadalupe Commercial Center and asked him to bring them to The Fort. He said they announced the holdup when they reached McKinley Road. He said that was when he decided to jump off his taxi.

The suspects are now detained at the Makati City Jail, and are facing charges of illegal possession of deadly weapons and frustrated robbery before the Makati City Prosecutor's Office.

## RCBC robber known, getaway car found

BY ALCUIN PAPA

POLICE have identified one of the suspects in the robbery of a Rizal Commercial Bank Corp. (RCBC) branch in Quezon City and found the getaway vehicle in Pasay City.

According to Senior Insp. Samuel Turia, chief of the Pasay City police station 6, a gray Honda Civic (WHF 732) was recovered in the city by SPO1 Alredo Lanillo, PO1 Jose Acopio and PO1 Silvano Maruliano.

Investigation revealed that the car was abandoned by a lone male suspect last Friday around 4 p.m. at the parking lot of the San Jacinto Restaurant on Taft Avenue near Edsa.

Investigators learned that the car was used in the robbery of the RCBC branch in Quezon City last week.

It was also the same car used by men who held up AMA Computer College students Bernard Velasco and Ma. Cristina Linda Soriano, police said.

Turia said that found inside the Honda Civic were a lady's handbag with papers from AMA school in the name of Soriano.

They learned from AMA authorities that Soriano was held up last week while she and Velasco were on board Soriano's Mitsubishi Adventure (WCP-324) in Novales.

Turia said a witness described a suspect who was last seen with the Honda Civic. The suspect was described as between 35 and 40 years old, 5-foot-8, with short hair, stocky and wearing denim walking shorts and a long-sleeved T-shirt. Turia and members of the Central Police District are coordinating closely to solve the RCBC bank robbery.

## Fake shampoos seized

BY JEROME ANING

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agents seized P500,000 in fake shampoo and hair products during a raid on two warehouses in Quinpo, Manila the other day.

Director Reynaldo Wycoco of the NBI said the raid stemmed from a complaint filed by Unilever Philippines Inc. which, through its counsel R.V. Domingo & Associates, requested the bureau to investigate and prosecute wholesalers and importers of counterfeit products bearing their trademark.

NBI agents conducted surveillance and learned that the 808 General Merchandise was storing counterfeit products in their warehouses on Morzagaray and Castillejos streets.

The NBI obtained a search warrant from Manila regional trial court Judge Antonio Eugenio Jr then conducted the raid.

Agents seized from the warehouses several wooden crates containing plastic bottles and sachets of fake Vaseline shampoo, Lux shampoo and Creme Silk conditioners worth P500,000.

# Malonzo threatens to sue Tancangco

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESQUERRA

CALOOCAN OIC Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo yesterday threatened to file charges against Commissioner Laz Tancangco of the Commission on Elections for "preempting" the decision on a petition to declare an election failure in the city.

Malonzo criticized Tancangco for announcing in a radio interview yesterday that she had voted in favor of the petition to declare an election failure in Caloocan. The petition was filed by former Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio and his brother, ex-mayor Macario "Boy" Asistio Jr.

Tancangco wrote the decision.

"Her statement is uncalled for," Malonzo said. "It's unethical. It proves that she's biased in favor of my political opponents."

Tancangco told Radio Mindanao Network that she granted the petition of the Asistios to declare an election failure in Caloocan. She also admitted that she wrote the decision.

But she clarified that her decision was personal and that other commissioners could still overrule it.

Malonzo said Tancangco should not have made the statement since the Comelec has yet to release its official decision on the petition.

Malonzo said he would file appropriate

charges against Tancangco "after the election mess is over."

Malonzo earlier claimed he had won a third straight term in the mayoral race over rival Baby Asistio.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo appointed Malonzo and most of his partymates as officers in charge in Caloocan pending the decision on the Asistio petition. The Asistios in their petition asked the Comelec to declare an election failure in Caloocan since they said many voters were disenfranchised.

They accused Malonzo and other local officials of deliberately delaying the distribution of election materials on election day,

May 14, to disenfranchise voters.

The office of city treasurer Lourdes Jose was tasked to organize the distribution of materials in the city's two districts.

## Man kills younger brother in drinking fight

BLOOD might be thicker than water, but alcohol can blind even siblings and lead them to kill each other.

Monday afternoon in Quezon City, a 30-year-old man killed his younger brother when they fought during a drinking bust.

Privado Ballinas, of Area 6, Luzon Avenue, Quezon City, stabbed dead his brother

Jim, 27, when they got in an argument, said investigator PO2 Roger Esteves of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit (CPD-CIU).

The brothers were drinking outside their house when they started arguing about 2:30 p.m. Monday, Esteves said. Police are still trying to find out what sparked the misun-

derstanding that turned fatal, Esteves added.

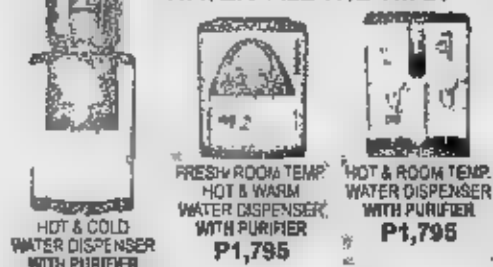
He said that both brothers were already drunk when their quarrel started. Privado pulled out a knife and stabbed his younger brother.

Responding policemen arrested the suspect, who is now detained at the CPD-CIU jail in Camp Karingal in Sikatuna Village in Quezon City.

Philip C. Tubeza

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7 DR. DO LITTLE 2	7 FINAL FANTASY
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9 MAHAL KITA	9
10 PARU-PARONG LIGAW	10
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12	12

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6 DR. DO LITTLE 2	6
7 TOMB RAIDER	7
8 MAHAL KITA	8
9 PANGAKO IKAW LANG	9
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4 FINAL FANTASY	4 DR. DO LITTLE 2
5	5 ACCIDENTAL SPY
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7	7 ANGEL EYES
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5 COMMAND & CONQUER	5 MAHAL KITA
6 PARU-PARONG LIGAW	6 PANGAKO IKAW LANG
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<b>TUTUBAN</b> 10000	<b>DAVAO</b> 10000
1 FINAL FANTASY	1
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4 PARU-PARONG LIGAW	4
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3 COMMAND & CONQUER	3 COMMAND & CONQUER	3 COMMAND & CONQUER
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5 TOM CATS	5 TOM CATS	5 TOM CATS
6 FINAL FANTASY	6 FINAL FANTASY	6 FINAL FANTASY
7 TOMB RAIDER	7 TOMB RAIDER	7 TOMB RAIDER
8 ALONG CAME A SPIDER	8 ALONG CAME A SPIDER	8 ALONG CAME A SPIDER
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1 MAHAL KITA	1 DR. DO LITTLE 2	1 MAHAL KITA
2	2 PANGAKO IKAW LANG	2
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<b>Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 &amp; 3</b> (Kaisa) tel. 536-4315	<b>Masagana CINEMA</b> (Pasig) tel. 834-6663	<b>Metropolis</b> (Manila) tel. 543-0001
1 MAHAL KITA	1 MAHAL KITA	1 MAHAL KITA
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3 COMMAND & CONQUER	3 COMMAND & CONQUER	3 COMMAND & CONQUER
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1 ALONG CAME A SPIDER	1 PANGAKO IKAW LANG	1 PANGAKO IKAW LANG
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<b>Emperor</b> (Manila) tel. 438-1687	<b>Fiesta World Mall</b> (Manila) tel. 438-1687	<b>Jade Cinema</b> (Manila) tel. 438-1687
1 MAHAL KITA	1 PANGAKO IKAW LANG	1 ATLANTIS
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<b>Cabuyao</b> (Laguna City) tel. 531-3008	<b>Fourstep</b> (Manila) tel. 416-2385	<b>Emperor</b> (Manila) tel. 438-1687
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<b>Olivarez Tri-Cinema</b> (Manila) tel. 513-8883	<b>Olivarez Los Baños</b> (Manila) tel. 536-5101	<b>Olivarez Tagaytay</b> (Manila) tel. 413-0311
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<b>Morales Cinema</b> (Manila) tel. 513-6786	<b>Cabuyao</b> (Laguna City) tel. 531-3008	<b>Fourstep</b> (Manila) tel. 416-2385
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<b>Ocean Cinema</b> (Manila) tel. 531-3008	<b>Ocean Cinema-B</b> (Manila) tel. 531-3008	<b>Ocean Cinema-C</b> (Manila) tel. 531-3008
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<b>Cinema-1</b> (Manila) tel. 835-28-29, 835-78-61 to 70	<b>Cinema-2</b> (Manila) tel. 835-28-29, 835-78-61 to 70	<b>Cinema-3</b> (Manila) tel. 835-28-29, 835-78-61
-------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------



# ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

## Mikey Arroyo makes his bid as leading man in the movies

A NEW Filipino movie, "Mahal Kita, Kahit Sino Ka Pa," is opening in Metro Manila theaters today. Local films open every week no big deal, so why is there an unusually noisy buzz about this one? Well, it stars Judy Ann Santos—and the President's son, Mickey Macapagal-Arroyo.

People are curious about the movie because they want to see for themselves if Mikey can act. Actually they had many chances to do that in the past, since Mikey has been acting in films for four years now.

We've caught a number of those movies, and can report that they were generally budget action films toppling second-tier

stars, and Mikey played only supporting and second-lead roles in them.

What about his acting ability? Well, if memory serves, he came across as eager and enthusiastic, but wasn't really given scenes that were intense or complex enough to reveal his depth as an actor. So, when it comes to Mikey's thespic talent, the jury is still out on that score.

Which is one reason why "Mahal Kita" could be a dodgy proposition for him. It's the first movie he's topbilled, so some people will naturally wonder why it took his mom's becoming president for Mikey to finally be given his initial lead role.

### VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre



All sorts of reasons can be advanced to explain such a "coincidence," but let's face it, the two events are inextricably linked. Nor should that be something that Mikey should apologize for.

After all, in this country, show biz and politics have been not so strange bedfellows since the time of Ferdinand Marcos. Imee produced and acted, Irene conducted, and even Bongbong

had a cameo role in a historical film on Filipino nationhood.

**Cory Aquino?** Kris is the most visible example, going straight from chirpy teenager to film and then TV star.

**Fidel Ramos?** Jo sang and had her own group, and went on to marry movie star Lloyd Samartino.

**Joseph Estrada?** Both Jinggoy and Jude tried to approximate his success in the movies. So, why should

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her progeny be any different?

Of course, some children of heads of state take advantage of their own popularity or "reflected celebrity" to launch show biz careers for themselves. Some of them make it, while others don't.

If Mikey Macapagal-Arroyo does well in his first lead role, there'll be no fuss made over his "sudden" stardom. However, if he comes across as nervous, awkward, lacking in thespic intensity or trying-hard, watch out for a cacophony of catcalls—and run for cover!

**New show on MTV**  
WATCH out for these

new shows on MTV Philippines starting this month:

"MTV's Cribs," a show that visits celebrities' homes and shows how stars live in private. The twist here is that the featured artists themselves serve as tour guides.

Catch glimpses of the homes of Ozzy Osbourne, Joey McIntyre, Sugar Ray, Outkast, Destiny's Child, Snoop Dogg,

Robbie Williams and Tommy Lee.

"MTV's Cribs" airs on Channel 41 (non-cable TV) every Monday at 8 p.m., with repeats every Wednesday at 1 p.m., Thursday at 2 p.m., and Saturday at 8 a.m.

"MTV Soundcheck," a music show that presents three new music videos each week. Viewers are invited to vote for their favorite on [www.mtv.com](http://www.mtv.com), and the

most popular new video can be added to MTV's playlist.

"MTV Soundcheck" is seen on Channel 41 every Monday from 2 to 2:15 p.m. Replays are on Tuesday at 8:30 a.m., Wednesday at 10 a.m., Thursday at 9 p.m. and Friday at 5 p.m.

**'Pick the Flick'**  
STAR Movies' "You Pick the Flick" gives viewers a chance to

choose the movie they'd like to watch.

Simply vote for your favorite movie at [www.youpicktheflick.com](http://www.youpicktheflick.com) and tune in to Star Movies every Friday, 9 p.m., to catch the winning flick of the week.

For July 20, movies to choose from are "Fire on the Amazon," "10 Things I Hate About You," "Lake Placid," "Stigmata" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

## Gentxt movie parade

GLOBE Handyphone Gentxt, your ultimate passport to cool gimmicks and big discounts in town, hypes the level of fun with four blockbuster Hollywood movies which Gentexters can have the privilege to see.

The Gentxt movie parade kicks off with a double header on July 26 with the screening of "Cats and Dogs" at SM Megamall Cinema 9 and "Moulin Rouge" at Cinema 11, both at 7:30 p.m.

In The Gentxt movie night presents Steven Spielberg's adventure movie, "Jurassic Park III," on July 28 at Glorietta 4 Cinema 3, 7:30 p.m.

Gentxt caps the month with the romantic-comedy film, "Bridget Jones Diary," to be shown July 31 at Glorietta 4 Cinema 3, 7:30 p.m. The movie is based on the best-selling novel by Helen Fielding. Renee Zellweger plays the title role, with Hugh Grant as costar.



### Sexy Date Movie Begins TODAY!

Introducing, the "Tomcats," tropa ng free-wheeling, sex-obsessed guys, na walang inatupag kung hindi maka-iskor at magbilang ng nobya.

Nagpustahan ang barkada - sino ang huling barako na di patatali sa pag-aasawa?

Matapos ang ilang taon, sina Michael (Jerry O'Connell ng JERRY MAGUIRE) at Kyle (Jake Busey ng STARSHIP TROOPERS) na lang ang natitirang bachelor sa grupo.

Upang manalo sa pusta, isa-set up ni Mike si Kyle with super-seductive Natalie (Shannon Elizabeth ng SCARY MOVIE, AMERICAN PIE). Ngunit di niya inaasahan na manulab din pala siya sa sexing dalaga. Manalo man siya sa pusta, magislaho naman ang true love niya!

Silipin din sa hilarious sexy comedy from Columbia Pictures sina Playboy playmates Julia Schultz at Amber Smith. Rated R.

### Final Fantasy

MTRCB RATING PG-13

Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

### Eye-popping sci-fi epic adventure

In the year 2085, a meteor crashes Earth, unleashing millions of destructive alien creatures. The beautiful Dr. Aki Ross is the planet's hope to overpower the alien invaders.

Infected with an alien spirit, Aki holds the key to defeating the creatures, as she scours the earth to collect the eight spirits that will save the planet, and pursues her final fantasy.

Share a motion picture unlike anything seen or imagined before on screen. Marvel at the latest in hyper-real CGI (computer generated image) technology.

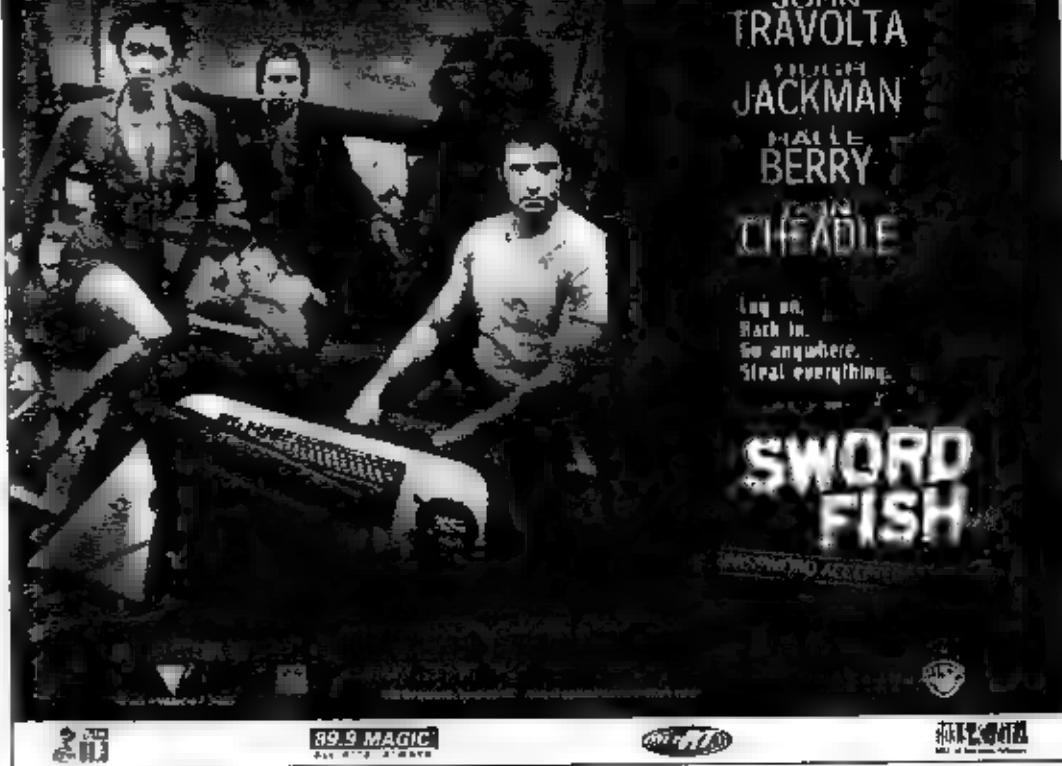
Don't miss the adventure movie of the year!

2ND MUST-SEE ADVENTURE WEEK!



### SECOND WEEK HYPER-ELECTRIFYING ACTION THAT'S HOTTER THAN BURSTING FLAMES!

MTRCB RATING R Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted



### ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4 NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

### PHILIPPINE PREMIERE

From the Critically Acclaimed Director of "CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON"

### RIDE WITH THE DEVIL

A Film by ANG LEE

IN A NO-MAN'S LAND BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH, YOU DIDN'T FIGHT FOR THE BLUE OR THE GRAY... YOU FOUGHT FOR YOUR FRIENDS AND YOUR FAMILY.

SKEET ULRICH TOBEY MAGUIRE JEFFREY WRIGHT

Ang Lee ("The Ice Storm," "Broke Back Mountain" & "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon") once again takes audiences on a journey to a different time and place, and into his characters' internal conflicts. A cast of rising young stars portrays young Americans, striving to define themselves and the country they had always called home, amidst national turmoil. The screenplay for Ride with the Devil is adapted by Lee's longtime collaborator James Schamus from Daniel Woodrell's novel Woe to Live On.

## ONE SHIP IS ABOUT TO IGNITE A GLOBAL WAR TODAY!



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DRIVEN - P 13 12:10, 2:35, 5:30, 7:25, 9:50	ALONG CAME A SPIDER - P 13 11:30, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10	DR. DOOLITTLE 2 - GP 11:30, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 7:20, 9:30
FINAL FANTASY - P 13 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	TOM CATS - R 16 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30	SWORD FISH - R 18 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30

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JULY 18, 2001

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

# BUSINESS

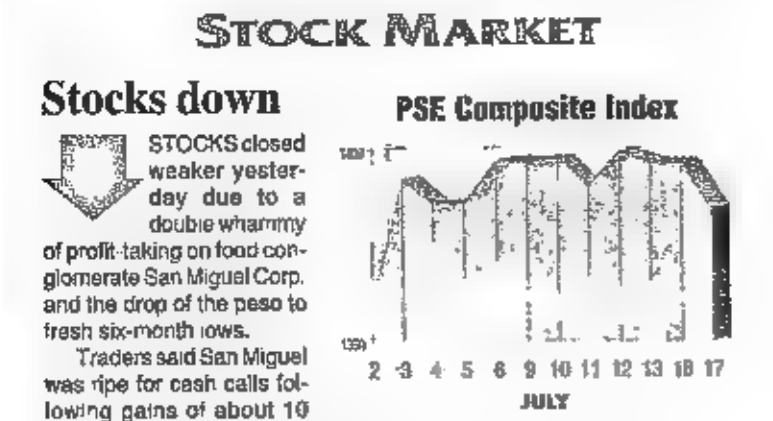
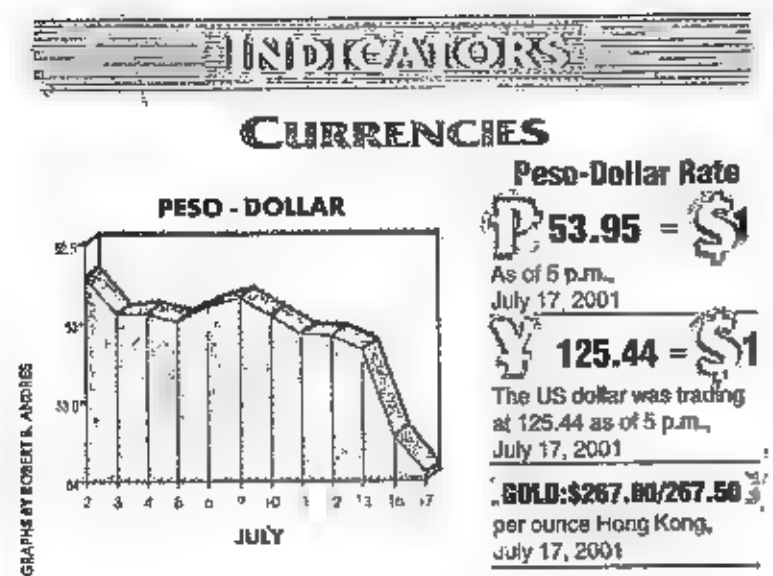
RAUL O. MANCERO, Editor | CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

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**HONDA**

## \$500-M RP bond float faces delay



By CLARISSA S. BATINO

WHILE the terms of the \$500-million bond deal may have been carved in stone, US-based investment bank Credit Suisse First Boston is planning to defer the offering of the global bonds by at least a month when market conditions on emerging markets shall have improved.

A senior finance official said the bond offer may be postponed as spreads on emerging market borrowings continued to widen because of fears that Argentina would default on \$24 billion worth of maturing loans this year.

Even Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said he would not be surprised if the investment bank would postpone the bond float to a later date.

"If they postpone it for 30 days, I wouldn't be surprised because of the (current) condition of the market. But the terms would have to be intact," the central bank chief said.



BUENAVENTURA

central bank chief said.

Buenaventura supported the stand of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho that the pricing and other terms of the \$500-million, 10-year global bond offering

could not be re-negotiated.

However, Buenaventura said the investment bank could choose a better timing for the offering.

"The only problem is that the inflow we are expecting would also be delayed. But if ever, it would only be delayed by a month or so," the central bank governor said. "We are mindful of the current market conditions. We expect that the completion of the documentation process and suitable market conditions for a successful issue will coincide," Camacho said.

The financial market has been abuzz with talks that Credit Suisse had been trying to re-negotiate the terms, particularly the pricing of the bond issue. The US-based investment bank has reportedly committed to "firmly underwrite" the \$500-million 10-year global bond issue of the Philippine government with a yield of 5.1 percentage points over 10-year US treasury bond rate.

As sole "bookrunner" for the

\$500-million deal, the US-based investment bank would be tasked to farm out the debt notes to other investment banks.

But pricing problems because of threats that Argentina would default on its loans and thus affect other emerging markets like the Philippines would leave Credit Suisse with no other choice but to hold on to the bonds if no other buyers will be brave enough to take them.

Credit Suisse was among the seven banks also coordinating the roadshow that the finance department had scheduled late this month. The roadshow has been postponed to a later date so as not to coincide with the bond float.

It had earlier raised \$200 million for the government through a private placement.

Sources said that spreads on emerging market borrowings rose by at least a percentage point since reports of Argentina's possible default reached the market two weeks ago.

## Banks chip in P100M for new exchange

By ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE BANKERS Association of the Philippines, composed of the country's more than 40 commercial banks, last week approved a P100-million investment for the establishment of a fixed-income exchange that has a potential for P1 trillion in trades.

In an interview, BAP executive director Leonilo Coronel said the BAP was preparing information kits for a roadshow in the next two weeks to raise investments for the balance of the planned exchange's P500-million capital base.

The Investment Houses Association of the Philippines, insurance companies and large corporate debt issuers such as food and beverage conglomerate San Miguel Corp. and oil giant Shell were among those being considered as possible investors, Coronel said.

The exchange, which will allow trading of various fixed-income instruments such as government securities and commercial paper, should be set up within the year, he added.

The BAP executive explained that, eventually, the exchange could lead to lower interest rates or borrowing costs for companies as a result of possibly higher demand and increased transparency.

The exchange will also provide a venue for individuals and organizations to dispose of their debt papers immediately without having to resort to buyback or repurchase agreements with financial institutions.

Initially the exchange will trade government securities, the secondary trading of which is not subject to documentary stamps tax under a ruling by the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Several associations involved in the country's capital markets are pushing the government to support legislation lifting the tax

on secondary trades of commercial paper and asset-backed securities, among others.

Coronel noted that there were about P1 trillion in outstanding government securities and this figure represented the potential amount of paper that could be traded on the planned fixed-income exchange.

The BAP's investment will represent a 20-percent stake in the fixed-income exchange. Under the Securities Regulation Code, a single industry group can only have a maximum 20-percent stake in any local exchange while an individual can have up to 5 percent

in any local exchange while an individual can have up to 5 percent

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# MRT extension seen key to MRTC profitability

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

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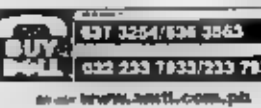
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METRO Rail Transit Corp. yesterday insisted that the proposed 5-kilometer extension of the Edsa mass rail transit (MRT) from its North Edsa station to Monumento was the key to putting the project on track to profitability.

MRTC chair Robert John Sobrepeña said the extension would finally complete a transport loop between Lines 1 (Light Rail Transit) and 3 (Edsa MRT), which should boost passenger volume on both routes.

The LRT runs from Monumento to Baclaran while the Edsa MRT line stops at LRT's Taft Avenue station. The 5-km extension would allow commuters access to both lines and enable Edsa MRT to capture a sizable chunk of passengers from North Metro Manila.

Sobrepeña said the Edsa MRT line was not viable because of its marginal traffic—average of 270,000 commuters a day—and the low fare. "The government can only make the MRT viable and reduce or wipe out its subsidies by completing the loop and raising the fare when the economy has recovered," Sobrepeña said.

The MRTC consortium has been blamed for rail-roading a deal, which critics said ensured the group of a 15-percent annual return on their \$190-million equity investments even if the Edsa MRT was not running profitably. MRTC is made up of FU-Estate Management Inc., Ayala Land Inc., Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp., Greenfield Development Corp.,

Ramcar Inc., Allante Realty and Development Inc.

Sobrepeña said that the terms of the build-lease-transfer contract were originally made during the Aquino administration with businessman Eli Levin as the private party. He said MRTC took over the project during the Ramos administration under the same BLT contract with some revisions that made it more attractive for the government.

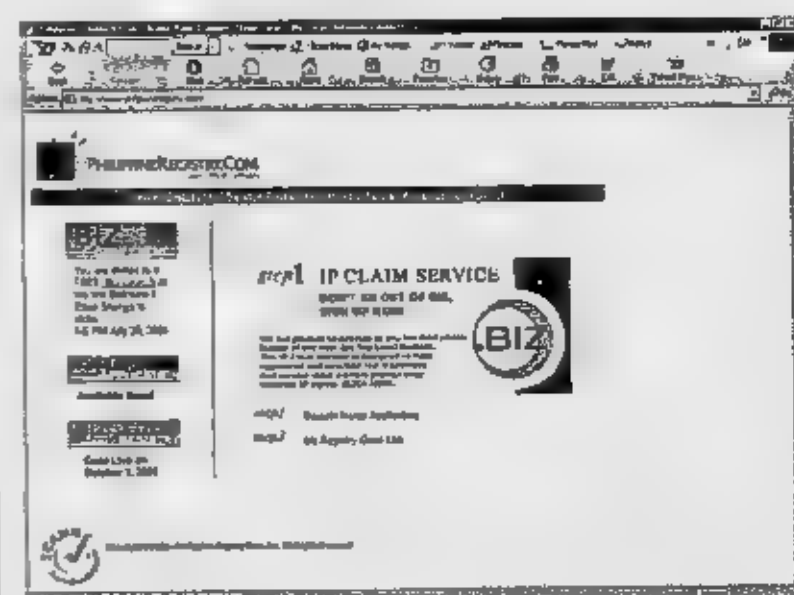
This included a cut in the internal rate of return from 20 percent to 15 percent and government's lease payments were changed from straight line (equal payments over 25 years) to a back-end schedule (where the bulk of payments are made only at the latter part of the contract). "We would start getting returns starting on the 15th year from start of operations or after all the loans have been paid," Sobrepeña said.

He said critics fail to realize that the BLT was a better option than the build-transfer mode. "Under a BT, the government should have paid lump sum after the project's completion unlike the BLT where the payment is spread over 25 years."

He said the loan guarantees were necessary considering the project's risk and cap on investment returns. "We were not the only company granted government guarantee. No company would touch the project unless there is a guarantee."

He said the project would not work under a build-operate-transfer mode because almost all transport systems in the world were operating on government subsidies. "We invested in the project despite MRT/B5

## Internet domain name registry opens in RP



WHAT'S in a name? In the Internet, it is everything.

Similar to real-world trademarks, domain names like CocaCola.com or Microsoft.com are virtual gateways to information about a company. Without a domain name, one will not have Web presence or a Web address that allows customers to view on the Internet the latest services and products that a company offers.

It is in this light that the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)—the body overseeing the global domain name management system and licensing of domain name registrars—decided to put up .biz, a top-level Internet domain strictly for business.

ICANN added biz to earlier domains such as .com, .org and .net. ICANN accredited PhilippineRegistry.com Inc. to operate as a global TLD name registry.

Many will remember that domain names such as Ayala.com, Sanmiguell.com, Unionbank.com and Megaworld.com were acquired by individuals, groups or companies based in the US or other parts of the world way before the larger Manila-based corporations filed applications to acquire them.

PhilippineRegistry.com gives Filipino companies the advantage of filing for .biz domain names early and greater chances of acquiring their domain names before other registrars from elsewhere in the world get them.

"biz is mainly designed for business. It aims to protect brand names. The .com domain has often been misclassified. With the 'first-come-first-serve' system adopted in serving .com name applications, anyone and everyone has been able to register and have a .com domain name," says Adriel Mirto, vice chair of PhilippineRegistry.com.

Philippine businesses may now avail themselves of the .biz domain and expand their presence on the Internet, something that no business today can do without. Mirto said PhilippineRegistry.com would follow the strict ICANN procedures in giving out .biz domain names to clients.

To launch the company and .biz, PhilippineRegistry.com will host a conference on the importance of domain name registration for business on July 20 at the Edsa Shangri-La Plaza Hotel.

## NOTICE OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The Law Firm of Zamora Mendoza and Associates is pleased to announce that on 02 July 2001, it has transferred its offices to:

Suite 707, Cityland 10 Tower I  
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We will maintain the same email address: atzamora@pacific.net.ph



Citystate Savings Bank, Inc.

709 Shaw Blvd., Pasig City

Statement of Condition

As of June 22, 2001

ASSETS	AMOUNT	THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Cash & Cash Items	P 10,812,500.00	Godofredo G. Uy-Tan
Checks & Other Cash Items	12,458.47	Chairman
Due From Central Bank	4,759,531.31	Antonio L. Cabangon-Chao
Due From Other Banks	30,991,475.20	Vice Chairman
Interbank Call Loans Receivable	25,000,000.00	
Loans And Discounts (Net)	300,995,299.25	
Buy Purchased	23,555,263.88	
Restructured Loans	5,432,510.08	D. Alfred A. Cabangon
Trading Accounts Securities - Net	2,218,635.32	Director
IBODI (Net)	4,242,005.70	
Bank Premises, PPE (Net)	17,472,322.64	Leonor Salar Falla
R.O.P.A.	29,430,516.99	Director
Other Assets	80,518,344.28	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>P 634,403,699.77</b>	
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Deposits	P 27,104,492.80	Leonor Salar Falla
Savings Deposits	224,900,542.54	Director
Time Deposits	7,205.82	Paralella M. Bolo
Merchants Check	13,859,979.94	Director
Due to BSP	285,530.00	Alfonso G. Uy
Accrued Interest, Taxes & Other Expenses Payable	3,733,244.83	Director
Unearned Income & Other Deferred Credits	3,254,328.32	J. Wilfredo A. Cabangon
Other Liabilities	19,201,913.88	Director
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>P 292,546,824.73</b>	D. Arnold A. Cabangon
<b>CAPITAL ACCOUNTS</b>		
Capital Stock	P 200,000,000.00	Vicente M. Santiago, Jr.
Paid-in Surplus	1,017,444.00	Director
Surplus Fund	7,239,894.25	Armando G. Trinidad
Unreserved Profits	3,498,518.78	Director
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>P 211,835,756.03</b>	Benjamin Y. Ramon
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; CAPITAL ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>P 634,403,699.77</b>	Director
<b>CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS</b>		
Items Held For Sale/Leasing	P 357.00	Anthony Tan
Items Held As Collateral	354.00	Director
Loans Deposits/Payments Receivable	18,482.00	Ally Joaquin T. Venas, Jr.
Outstanding Bills for Collections	321,437.78	Director, Corporate Secretary
<b>TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>P 381,670.78</b>	
<b>COMPLIANCE WITH MAGNA CARTA LAW:</b>		
Prescribed Ratio of Compliance	82% For Small Enterprises	2% For Medium Enterprises
Actual Compliance	110.86 %	50.84 %
<b>OTHER INFORMATION (as of June 2001)</b>		
Nonperforming loans and	P 8,957,828.71	
Ratio to total loan portfolio	1.77%	
Classified loans and other risk assets	P 6,957,828.71	
Classified loans and other risk assets	P 1,224,028.81	
Special loan loss reserve	P 2,018,838.03	
Return on equity (ROE)	P 30,847,100.76	
ROE to total assets	8.14%	
Ratio to total loan portfolio, and	P 10.00 %	
Ratio to total assets	P 10.00 %	

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
PASIG CITY  
We, Eduardo O. Olaviano and D. Alfred A. Cabangon, solemnly swear that all assets and liabilities in this report are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO O. OLAVIANO (Sgd.) D. ALFRED A. CABANGON  
Assistant Vice President Acting President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 12th day of July, 2001, in the city of Pasig, Philippines, in the presence of the undersigned, a Notary Public for the City of Pasig, who, after reading the foregoing, certify that the said officers are duly qualified and that the contents of the report are true and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief.

Doc. No. 100  
Page 30  
Book No. 11  
Series of 2001

Notary Public until December 31, 2001  
PTR NO. 0248223-01-16-01 PASIG  
BIR NO. 825084-01-16-01 CAPIZ







# Philippine Stock Exchange

STOCKS	(As of Tuesday, July 17, 2001)				VOLUME
	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	
<b>BANKS &amp; FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>					
Aseanul Dipw Bank Inc.	4.85	4.95	4.85	4.85	3,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	1,000
Bank of the Phil Islands	71	71	70	70.5	98,100
Equitable PCI Bank Inc	38	36.5	36	36.5	201,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	205	205	203	203	20,240
Philippine National Bank	41	41.5	41	41	11,000
Phil Savings Bank	30	30	30	30	6,400
Security Bank Corp	20.25	21	20.25	21	2,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	25	25	25	25	4,900
<b>FINANCIAL SERVICE</b>					
Filipino Fund Inc	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	260	260	260	260	1,270
Manulife Financial Corp.	1450	1450	1450	1450	5,420
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	20,000
Sun Life Financial Serv	1265	1270	1285	1270	10,440
<b>COMMERCIAL &amp; INDUSTRIAL</b>					
<b>COMMUNICATION</b>					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	38.5	39.5	38.5	39.5	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.5	0.52	0.5	0.5	3,740,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	670	670	670	670	220
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	10,360,000
Philat	0.67	0.58	0.57	0.58	30,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	270,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	680	680	685	685	174,900
Investage Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	50,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.034	0.034	0.033	0.034	36,900,000
<b>POWER &amp; ENERGY</b>					
Manila Electric Co. A	37.5	37.5	37	37.5	15,200
Manila Electric Co. B	50	50	49.5	49.5	804,800
Palayan Corp.	1.98	2	1.98	1.98	1,084,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	80,000
<b>TRANSPORTATION SERVICES</b>					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.28	2.28	2.14	2.14	2,947,000
Koppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	10,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	140,000
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS</b>					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	80,000
Fortuna Cement Corp.	0.16	0.15	0.15	0.15	20,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	20,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	31,000
<b>FOOD, BEVERAGES &amp; TOBACCO</b>					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	7,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.85	4.85	4.7	4.8	1,243,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	46,900
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	26.8	26.5	26.5	26.5	25,000
Pure Foods Corp. A	120	124	120	124	2,589,640
Pure Foods Corp. B	124	124	124	124	351,240
RFM Corp.	2.48	2.6	2.42	2.55	5,739,000
San Miguel Corp. A	43.5	43.5	42.5	43	77,500
San Miguel Corp. B	53.5	53.5	51	52	842,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
<b>HOLDING FIRMS</b>					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.79	0.79	0.78	0.78	100,000
Ayala Corp.	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	412,000
Aboliz Equily Ventures	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	300,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	1	1	1	1	800
Apt.Net Holdings Inc. A	1.22	1.28	1.22	1.24	2,008,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	100,000
Ape Group Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	210,000
Alcom Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	11,000,000
Betabac Resources & Hldgs	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	140,000
Bectonair Cons Indus Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	360,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.21	2,013,000
Benguet Holdings Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	270,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	350,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.165	0.17	0.165	0.17	280,000
Dmcl Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	1,700,000
Ebecam Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.11	0.11	1,000,000
Firstinvest Dev. Corp.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	10,000
First Phil Hldg Corp	33	33	32	32	343,900
Global Equities Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	250,000
Guoco Holdings (Philis.)	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	120,000
Igope Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	67,000
Igope Inc. B	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	60,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	15,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	2,100,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.72	0.72	940,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.25	0.28	0.25	0.28	160,000
Nitro Pacific Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	2,020,000
Philinvest Holdings Corp.	4.2	4.5	4.2	4.5	50,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	250,000
Tanday Holdings Inc.	8.1	8.1	8	8	60,000
Waterfront Philis. Inc.	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.24	30,000
<b>MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION &amp; TRADING</b>					
Musis Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.86	1.88	448,000
Maharajah Vinyl Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	20,000
Prime Gaming Mgmt. Corp.	15	15	15	15	40,000
Philippine Seven Corp.	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	1,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.88	0.88	0.87	0.87	80,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15	15.25	15	15	171,000
Stanley Manufacturing	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	20,000
<b>HOTEL, RECREATION &amp; OTHER SERVICE</b>					
Belle Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.48	0.48	1,720,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1,290,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	10,000
<b>BONDS, PREFERRED &amp; WARRANTS</b>					
Abs-Cbn Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	40	40	40	40	1,224,800
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	404,000
Globe Tel. A Warrants	480	480	480	480	250
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	680	680	680	680	30,000,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10	10	10	10	2,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series L	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	34,400,000
Philweb Corp. Inc. Warrants	0.021	0.022	0.02	0.021	20,000
<b>OTHERS</b>					
Centro Escolar University	7	7	7	7	20,000
<b>PROPERTY</b>					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.1	5.1	4.96	4.95	2,382,000
Areneta Properties Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.24	950,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.38	0.4	0.38	0.4	2,810,000

Cyber Bay Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.29	20,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.28	0.29	3,670,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.12	2.12	2.1	2.1	653,000
Fi-Estate Land Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.22	1,050,000
SM Development Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	30,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	1,015,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	600,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	150,000
<b>MARKING</b>					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	2,000,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	10,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min. & Dev't	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	34,000
Igorog-Suyoc Mines A	0.038	0.038	0.037	0.038	28,500,000
Uranium Cons. Min. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	100,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.005	0.005	224,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.005	0.005	380,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0044	0.0044	0.0042	0.0042	21,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	7,500,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.41	420,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	860,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	50,000
<b>IMPERIAL RES.</b>					
Imperial Res.	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	9,300,000
Pacific	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	8,500,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	20,000
<b>SHARES</b>					
Banks & Fin Svc	395.470	395.470	395.470	395.470	730,089,130
Comml & Ind'l	13,410.000	13,410.000	13,410.000	13,410.000	22,436,450
PRQ	575,264.000	575,264.000	575,264.000	575,264.000	5,061,300.00
Minig	17,820.000	17,820.000	17,820.000	17,820.000	335,500.00
Oil	870.541	870.541	870.541	870.541	798,852,190.00
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>					
<b>AVERAGES</b>					
Banks & Fin Svc	582.91	582.91	582.91	582.91	DOWN 2.69
Comml & Ind'l	1,373.84	1,373.84	1,373.84	1,373.84	DOWN 17.61
PRQ	519.85	519.85	519.85	519.85	DOWN 7.51
Minig	1,330.86	1,330.86	1,330.86	1,330.86	DOWN 27.83
Oil	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	800.45	800.45	800.45	800.45	UP 0.82
Composite	1,384.01	1,384.01	1,384.01	1,384.01	DOWN 13.60
<b>NO. OF ADVANCES: 28; NO. OF DECLINES: 54; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 41; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 123; NO. OF TRADES: 2,186</b>					

## CURRENCIES

Country	Unit	Foreign currency in US\$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.171783	53.5030
Japan	Yen	0.009343	0.4286
United Kingdom	Pound	1.641200	74.9383
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.150238	6.8598
Switzerland	Franc	0.661651	30.2106
Canada	Dollar	0.762185	34.8010
Singapore	Dollar	0.638401	29.1490
Australia	Dollar	0.597605	27.2865
Saudi Arabia	Dinar	3.108344	141.9253
Brunei	Rupiah	0.036321	14.2683
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.006103	0.0047
Thailand	Baht	0.025635	1.1705
UAE	Dirham	0.319113	14.5705
Korea	Won	0.000898	0.0410
Euro	Euro	1.000000	45.6595
Germany	Mark	0.511291	23.3453
France	Franc	0.152450	6.9607
Guider	Schilling	0.453780	20.7194
Schilling	Schilling	0.072673	3.3182
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	1.1319
Italy	Lire	0.006517	0.0235
Malaysia	Malaysia	0.188188	7.6794
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.2278
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.2764
Luxembourg	Franc	0.024789	1.1319
Ireland	Punt	1.268738	57.9755

## SUBIC FREEPORT

# Taiwan to infuse more investments

**SUBIC BAY FREEPORT**—Taiwanese business leaders accompanying Taiwanese Economic Minister Hsin-I Lin in his Philippine visit have pledged to pour more investments in Subic Bay Freeport.

The freeport is the site of a 300-hectare industrial park that has grown into an overseas manufacturing base for Taiwan over the past five years.

The business delegation, composed of chief executive officers of companies that rank among the biggest in Taiwan, is headed by Jeffrey Koo, chair of the Chinatrust Commercial Bank and the Chinese National Association of Industry and Commerce (CNAIC).

Manufacturing conglomerate Far Eastern Group, which has \$21.8 billion in assets, led the businesses that expressed "serious interest" in establishing overseas operations in Subic.

Far Eastern, chaired by Douglas Toog Hsu, is engaged in shipbuilding and textile manufacturing, among other things.

Hsu said he is "seriously considering putting investments in Subic," which has lured internationally renowned Taiwanese companies such as Acer and Hitachi to locate large-scale manufacturing operations at the Subic Bay Industrial Park (SBIP).

The Philippines remains among the top five destinations for Taiwanese

overseas investments. Despite the global economic slowdown, Taiwanese overseas investments in the first quarter of the year reached \$1.364 billion, up 42.22 percent from the same quarter last year.

Koo assured Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority officials that he would bring more Taiwanese investors to the freeport.

Koo is known to have a strong influence, not only in Taipei's business community but also in its economic policies and decisions—serving as national policy adviser of the Taiwanese president for several years.

He is believed to have played a pivotal role in shifting Taipei's overseas investment priorities toward the Philippines, particularly Subic.

"The idea of Subic was started by myself and former President Fidel Ramos," Koo said.

Taiwanese investments are viewed as the single most important factor behind the success of Subic Bay as a manufacturing site.

Computer giant Acer, the biggest investor here next to FedEx, has invested over \$120 million in its production facility and has accounted for about 80 percent of the freeport's total export earnings since 1998.

Acer is expanding its operations to include the assembly of desktop computers. Elizabeth Marcelo, PDI Central Luzon Desk

# PEP suspends film production, bingo operations

By DORIS C. DUMLAO

**PUBLICLY** listed film and gaming company Premiere Entertainment Productions (PEP) Inc. yesterday announced the suspension of its bingo and film



# Gov't needs firm policy on granting of guarantees

## SECOND IN SUBIC Banks want new casino

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

(Conclusion)

A WEEK after she took her oath of office, President Macapagal-Arroyo asked all departments and agencies of the government to live within their means and demonstrate simple lifestyle. Officials were asked to refrain from using the expensive vehicles bought by the previous administration. The highly paid ones were asked to take salary cuts and to forego some perks.

The moves were aimed at cutting off unnecessary expenditures that put further pressure on the government's tight budget.

An important part of the process is the review of all sovereign guarantees extended by the previous administration that tend to bloat the already swollen budget deficit.

The government has been doing the review very carefully and quietly because the bulk of these were signed not during the term of everybody's usual suspect, deposed President Estrada, but under that of former President Fidel V. Ramos.

### Inherited projects

Technically, Argentinian-led CBK Power Corp. obtained a risk undertaking, a form of government guarantee, not from Estrada who was called the "unwitting godfather" of Impsa Asia Ltd. when the contract with the National Power Corp. was sealed, but from the current administration.

The Macapagal administration approved the risk undertaking on the strength of a Department of Justice opinion that favored the extension of guarantee to the CBK project.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, however, denied this saying that the current administration only did "some legal clarifications." He, however, did not elaborate on his statement.

The guarantee means the national government assumes the responsibility of paying CBK's creditors should Napocor fail to pay for the electricity it committed to buy from CBK Power.

Not that the CBK project does not deserve any guarantee, but according to the provisions of the BOT law, unsolicited proposals such as that of Impsa, are not entitled to any government guarantee.

A similar case is that of Philippine International Air Terminal Co., the proponent of the Nala Terminal 3 project. The Piatco deal recently caused a stir when the Macapagal administration discovered that the previous administration guaranteed the loans of the project proponent even if the Nala 3 contract was based on an unsolicited bid.

In the case of CBK Power, a government guarantee was a precondition set by the lenders of a loan for the rehabilitation of the Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan power plants in Quezon.

### GMA stance questioned

It was odd, said a former finance secretary, that the administration that has been meticulously studying all deals entered into by the previous administration had quietly approved a project as controversial and as closely identified with former President Estrada as CBK.

Unlike in the case of Piatco, whose guarantees were already firmed up when Estrada was booted out of office, the matter of CBK's guarantee was still in the hands of the justice department when the new administration took over.

## ATR group...

(From page B4)

The existing major shareholders of Philread—Philex Mining Corp. and Bridgestone/Firestone Inc.—will own 24.75 percent and 13.14 percent, respectively.

The transaction was approved by Philread's board of directors last July 12. It will be presented for ratification by the company's stockholders in a meeting on July 25.

"Philread calls for the subscription and full payment of the new shares by way of stock offering to stockholders. The subscription of the new investor group on the Philread shares will come from the increase in the authorized capital stock," the disclosure said.

"In case the new shares will not be adequate for the subscriptions of the new investor group, the balance will be taken from the other stockholders of the corporation," it added.

The investor group will transfer its 61.35-percent stake in Net Curricula to Philread for P135.4 million. ATR Kim Eng, for its part, will transfer its 10 percent stake in LBC Global also to Philread.

The cost of acquiring these two assets will exceed Philread's total equity by 20 percent. However, the company said in the disclosure that it would still be able to generate a cash reserve of P14.6 million for additional working capital and future investments.

Philread chair Gerard Brimo was authorized by the board to negotiate the terms and conditions for the entry of the investor group.

Philread stopped its tire manufacturing operations in 1994 and spun off its plant and inventories located in Sucat, Marikina to MSF Tire and Rubber Inc. The property on which the tire plant was located was transferred to Sucat Land Corp.

Barrier reports said ATR Kim Eng was buying GE Life Insurance Co. Inc., the Philippine subsidiary of GE Capital International Holdings Corp. of the US.

## MRT...

(From page B2)

the limited returns, (which was equivalent to Treasury bill rates at the time) because we thought we could offset these from earnings from the project's real estate side. Unfortunately, the property sector went bust and we have yet to recover," Sobrepina said.

Sobrepina said his group bought out Levin only when the Supreme Court upheld the legality of the BLT contract. He said the deal was reviewed by different government agencies and was probed by the Senate and House of Representatives.

Instead of being criticized, Sobrepina said the MRT should be praised for building the project on time and within budget—a rarity in the business. The net economic benefits of the project in terms of man-hours, fuel consumption and pollution far outweigh the costs of undertaking the project. Sobrepina said the Edsa MRT should be reviewed with the record of LRT Lane 2. The transport system from Bilibid Prison to Kalipunan has yet to be completed even though it was started before the Edsa MRT.

"The current administration could have done something to address the concerns about the CBK deal," he said.

This puts to question the Macapagal administration's position against the granting of government guarantees to certain groups.

### Firm policy

It is interesting to note that while the Department of Finance had prepared an executive order adopting a conservative position on the extension of government guarantees, two other departments had their own drafts espousing entirely different approaches. The DOP and the two other departments are currently harmonizing their proposals before presenting the final draft to Malacañang for approval.

Camacho stressed that the government would exercise caution and act judiciously on pending requests for guarantees.

But until a firm policy is set, there will be no assurance that the state coffers will be spared from absorbing the loans of projects guaranteed by the government, whether they are sound or otherwise.

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE GROUP of creditor banks that took over Subic Bay Waterfront Development Corp. has asked the state-run Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) to put up a casino at the Subic Yacht Club, which will be the second in Subic Freeport.

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicitio Payumo said the creditor banks felt that a casino would help in boosting the flagging operations of the Subic Yacht Club.

An additional casino was expected to attract a more regular flow of customers at the Subic Yacht Club, which remains a popular destination for local tourists during weekends but mostly deserted during weekdays.

Payumo, however, said the creditor banks have yet to determine whether Pagcor could legally set up another casino in Subic Bay as it has already given out a license to operate a casino in the freeport to the Legenda group, owner of an upscale hotel.

The creditor banks claimed that Pagcor could run the proposed Subic Yacht Club casino while the Legenda casino would continue to operate as a licensee.

Creditor banks led by Land Bank of the

Philippines took over operations of Subic Bay Waterfront from Triple V Restaurant group early this year after the company defaulted on its roughly P1 billion in loans.

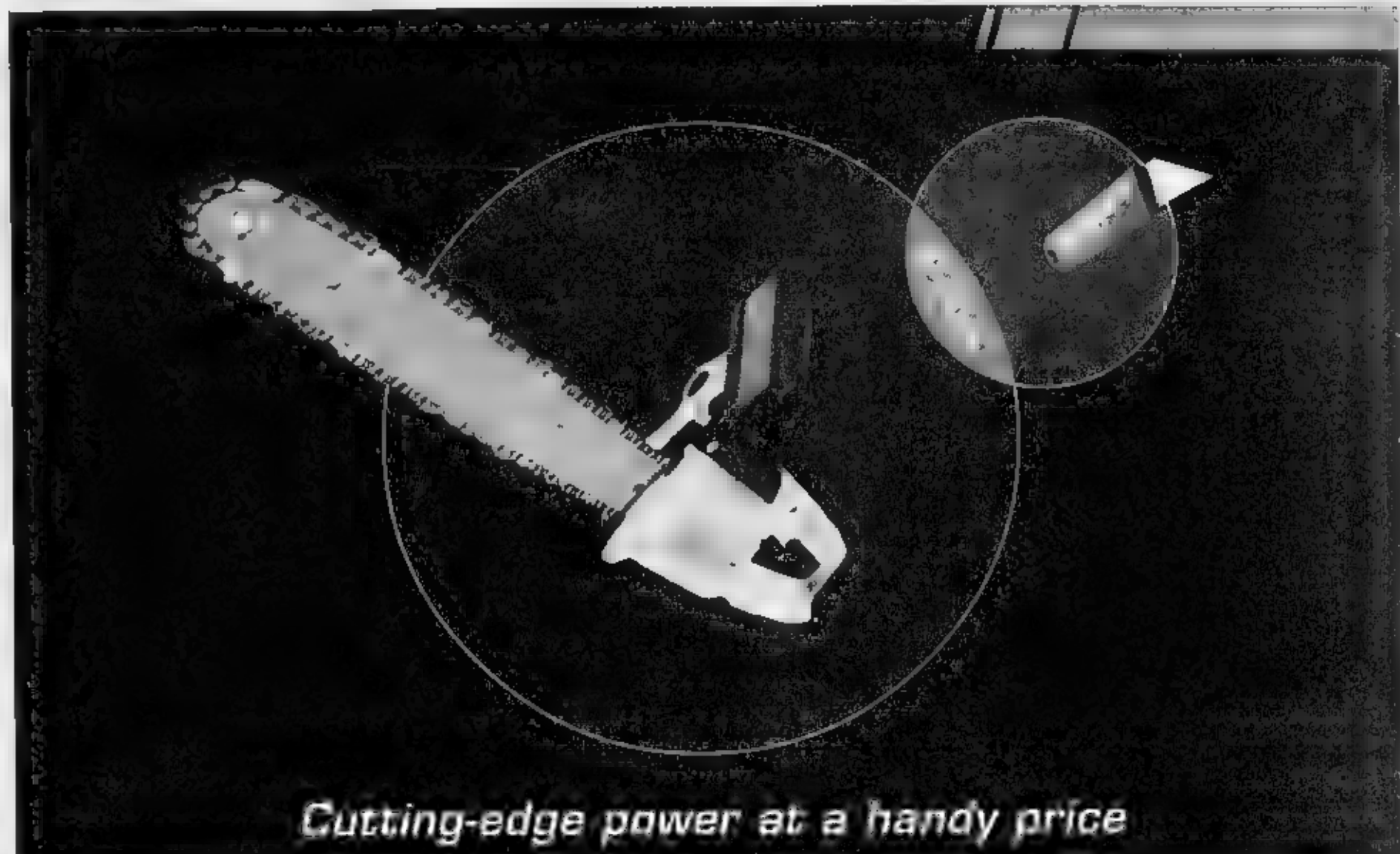
Triple V owner Victor Villavencio was forced to pay the 17 creditor banks shares of the Subic Yacht Club to prevent his prized project from closing down. Villavencio sold Subic Yacht Club shares at P1.7 million each for individuals and P2.3 million for corporate investors.

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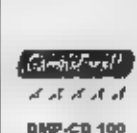



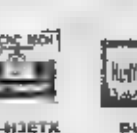




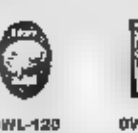



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 <p><b>DES-1005D</b> 5-port 10/100Mbps Autosensing Fast Ethernet Switch (Palm-sized)</p> <p><b>Php 6,500</b></p>	 <p><b>DP-602</b> 10/100Mbps Internet Server with 2 WAN ports and On-demand Feature</p>	 <p><b>DFE-538TX</b> 10/100Mbps PCI Network Adapter with Wake-On-LAN</p> <p>All promotions valid while stocks last.</p>

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 <p><b>D-Link CD 100</b> 5 out of 5 stars from Gamers First (2001)</p>	 <p><b>D-Link CD 100</b> 5 out of 5 stars from Gamers First (2001)</p>	 <p><b>D-Link CD 100</b> 5 out of 5 stars from Gamers First (2001)</p>	 <p><b>D-Link CD 100</b> 5 out of 5 stars from Gamers First (2001)</p>	 <p><b>D-Link CD 100</b> 5 out of 5 stars from Gamers First (2001)</p>	 <p><b>D-Link CD 100</b> 5 out of 5 stars from Gamers First (2001)</p>	 <p><b>D-Link CD 100</b> 5 out of 5 stars from Gamers First (2001)</p>	 <p><b>D-Link CD 100</b> 5 out of 5 stars from Gamers First (2001)</p>	 <p><b>D-Link CD 100</b> 5 out of 5 stars from Gamers First (2001)</p>	 <p><b>D-Link CD 100</b> 5 out of 5 stars from Gamers First (2001)</p>	 <p><b>D-Link CD 100</b> 5 out of 5 stars from Gamers First (2001)</p>
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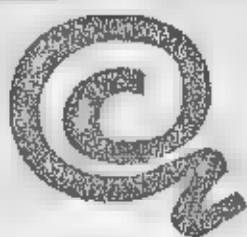
**D-Link in Rank:** No. 1 (In terms of Ethernet NIC category in Philippines for the period of Q3 2000 to Q4 2000) No. 2 (In terms of the combined Ethernet and PCI Ethernet Fast Port Unmanaged Hub category in Philippines for the period of Q3 2000 to Q4 2000) No. 2 (In terms of the combined Ethernet and PCI Ethernet Fast Port Unmanaged Hub category in Philippines for the period of Q3 2000 to Q4 2000)

(Source: IDC Asia Pacific 2000)

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JTC Consultants

# JTCI Consultants (Phils.) Corporation

LITA PASCUAL, Account Manager

SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

## Logo unveiled reveals sharper focus on RP commitments

BY JOEL NIGOS

JTCI Consultants (Philippines) Corp. (JICP), the Manila subsidiary of JTC Consultants Group (JTCC), was launched last night at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel in Makati City with a new corporate identity and a new logo. The company aims itself as a total service provider for all industrial and infrastructure development in the Philippines and in the region.

"In line with our commitment to the long-term business success of our customers, JTCC will actively

seek to provide innovative, cost-effective and superior solutions in master planning, project design and management services," JTCC CEO Goh Song How said in his speech during the launching.

Goh said that the company would leverage on best technologies as well as attract and retain the best people so that the company will constantly meet the ever-changing needs of businesses competing in today's new economy.

He admitted that what the company hopes to achieve in the coming years is a challenging and exciting one—adding that the challenge is not only in providing the best design and management

services, but to do so consistently.

"Firstly, we want to 'consistently provide' in our project deliverables. This means consistent quality, consistent schedules, and consistent cost controls," Goh said.

He said JTCC welcomed repeat customers and said it is equally committed to the long-term success of its clients.

"We will constantly outdo ourselves and offer the best solutions to meet the ever-changing needs of today's business," Goh stressed.

Goh also reiterated that as part of its business focus, JTCC would emphasize on its expertise in consultancy work for large-scale industrial parks and in specialized industrial buildings.

"We shall focus on key markets in the region such as the Philippines and build a name for ourselves as the consultant to be looked up to in this business," he said.

Goh also enumerated three strengths that JTCC will bring to customers.

First, JTCC will provide comprehensive one-stop service, from technical feasibility study, master planning, design, engineering to on-site project management.

Second, JTCC boasts of a diverse in-house resource base of 438 professionals and supporting staff, many of them with more than 20 years of experience, and backed strongly by an established global network.

Third, JTCC has a superior track

record in delivering on numerous projects in Asia which fully demonstrates the company's commitment to consistently meet the high standards of global customers.

Goh also said that the company looks forward to enjoying the challenges ahead and identified the twin pillars of success that they wanted to achieve: to deliver superior project designs and services to clients and to sustain a healthy and growing bottom line for its shareholders.

For his part, JICP president Foong Kok Meng said in his address that along with the Philippine subsidiary, the company "aims to be a leading consultancy that offers its customers innovative project de-

sign, management and related services for infrastructure and real estate developments globally."

JICP president Foong added that JICP will be fully-backed by its parent company JTCC in their local operations, be it in manpower requirements or full financial backing to undertake large-scale projects.

"JICP is also keen on working closely with local consultants (so we could) share our expertise and experiences, build new capabilities and partnerships; and responsively undertake new projects," Foong said.

JTCC, formed through the merger of JTC International's consultancy arm and the Technical Services Division of JTC Corp., was incorporated on April 9, 2001 in Singapore.

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## Asian experience speaks well of future capabilities

TRANSFORMING industrial landscapes and building large-scale industrial projects requires an untarnished track record. The success and the immensity of a company's previous projects measure its true worth.

The accomplishments of JTCC Consultants Group (JTCC) and the projects in which it is engaged in right now speaks of how much JTCC can do and how far it is willing to go.

JTCC is the leading consultant for the development of industrial parks, commer-

cial buildings, ready-built or high-rise factories and even IT parks in Singapore.

In the Philippines, the company has been involved in the conceptual master plan and civil engineering design for Carmelray Industrial Park II since 1997, and in the design and project management for six units of ready-built factories in Carmelray Industrial Park II since 1998.

JTCC was also responsible for the conceptual master plan of First Clarkway Industrial Park in 1998, the New Cebu Township in 1998, and the Subic Bay Industrial Park I in 1996.

JTCC is a result of the merger of the technical arm of JTC Corp. and the international consultancy arm of JTC International and is involved in various aspects of planning, development and management of townships, industrial buildings and related infrastructure facilities.

The company has complete professional expertise in the field of master planning, architecture, civil and structural engineering, mechanical and electrical engineering, quantity surveying and project management. *Joel Nigos*

**JTCC FACT SHEET**

JTCC is a result of the synergistic merger between the technical arm of JTC Corporation, and the international consultancy arm of JTC International.

Since its formation in 1980, JTC International has built a strong reputation in consultancy services in industrial park and facilities development in the region. JTC Corporation's technical services group has played a major role in transforming the industrial landscape in Singapore for over 30 years.

**Services**

JTCC has complete professional expertise in the field of master planning, architecture, civil and structural engineering, mechanical and electrical engineering, quantity surveying and project management.

Our full range of services includes:

<p><b>Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town planning and urban design</li> <li>• Development feasibility study</li> <li>• Strategic planning and potential analysis</li> <li>• Master planning and physical land use planning</li> <li>• Permit and approval submissions to authorities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Architecture</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Architectural design and interior design</li> <li>• Retrofitting and renovation of industrial building</li> <li>• Arch-media and visual communication</li> </ul> <p><b>Engineering</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land reclamation and infrastructure planning</li> <li>• Civil and structural engineering design</li> <li>• Power reticulation design</li> <li>• Port design, engineering and management</li> <li>• Mechanical and electrical engineering design</li> <li>• Accredited checker</li> <li>• Specialized engineering including clean room and process engineering</li> </ul> <p><b>Quantity survey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quantity surveying, cost and contracts administration</li> </ul> <p><b>Survey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topographical, hydrographic and reclamation surveys</li> </ul> <p><b>Project management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project management and construction</li> </ul>
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## JITC TRACK SHEET

## services

- Turnkey packaging

## Track Record

JTCC is the leading consultant for industrial park and its related infrastructure facilities development in the region, with more than 22 large-scale industrial projects in eight countries. With more than 30 years of experience in various aspects of planning, development and management of townships, industrial buildings and related infrastructure facilities, these projects are a proven testimony to JTCC's full range of services.

## The Philippines

- Conceptual master plan of Carmelray Industrial Park II - 147 hectares (1997-ongoing)
- Civil engineering design for Carmelray Industrial Park II - 145 hectares (1997-ongoing)
- Design and project management for six units of ready-built factories in Carmelray Industrial Park II (1998-

## ongoing)

- Conceptual master plan of First Clarkway Industrial Park (1998)
- Conceptual master plan of New Cebu Township (1998)
- Conceptual master plan and engineering design for Subic Bay Industrial Park I (1996)

## India

- Architecture, project management, engineering design, quantity surveying for IT Tech Park Phase II, Bangalore
- Conceptual master plan for Gurgaon Technology Park - 30 hectares (1997-1999)
- Conceptual design of proposed ready built factory and office cum commercial buildings for Gurgaon Technology Park, India (1998-ongoing)
- Conceptual master plan for Mahindra Industrial Park, Tamil Nadu - 540 hectares (1997-ongoing)
- Architecture, project management, engineering design and quantity

## surveying for Vyasa Bank, Bangalore

- Conceptual master plan and architecture for Positra, Gujarat
- IT Park for Compact Disc India, Himachal Pradesh
- IT Corridor, Bangalore

## People's Republic of China

- Conceptual master plan of Chiwan Petroleum Supply Base, Sekou, Shenzhen (1984)
- Detailed development guide plans for Phases 1, 2 and 3 of China-Singapore Suzhou Industrial Park (1994-1996)
- Civil and infrastructural design for Phase 1 of China-Singapore Suzhou Industrial Park - 1,100 hectares (1993-ongoing)
- Architecture, engineering design and project management for the 240 hectares Start Up Area of China-Singapore Suzhou Industrial Park (1993-ongoing)
- Design consultant and project manager for the road network in Districts I and II of China-Singapore

## Suzhou Industrial Park (1995-ongoing)

- Design and project management for Earthworks (11 hectares) and Feng Huang Bridge 1 at Suzhou Industrial Park (1998-ongoing)
- Design and project management of four blocks of high rise factory complex in China-Singapore Suzhou Industrial Park (1993-1996)
- Project management of the construction of Suzhou-Singapore International School in China-Singapore Suzhou Industrial Park (1996-1997)
- Turnkey consultant for additions and alterations of ready built factory for Beckman Instruments Inc. in Suzhou Industrial Park (1998)
- Infrastructure and engineering plan for Yuan Hong Industrial Park at Fuzing, Fujian Province - 1,000 hectares (Phase I) (1993-ongoing)
- Project management of two 19-storey tower blocks for Chongqing Yuguang Plaza, in Yuguang Chongqing Hi-Tech Industrial Zone (1999)

- Project management and factory construction for Baxter Healthcare in China-Singapore Suzhou Industrial Park (1996-1998)

## Vietnam

- Detailed guide plan for Phase 1 - Vietnam-Singapore Industrial Park in Song Be Province - 500 hectares (1996)
- Design consultant for the civil and infrastructure works in Vietnam-Singapore Industrial Park, Song Be Province - 134 hectares (Phase I) (1995-1996)

## Indonesia

- Conceptual master plan and detailed development guide plan of Cilegon Industrial Estate - 1,885 hectares (1997)
- Infrastructure works for Tanjung Bunga Resort (Start-Up Area) at Ujung Pandang, South Sulawesi - 200 hectares (1996-ongoing)

## Malaysia

- Conceptual master plan of

industrial township at Kota Kinabalu, Sabah - 3,680 hectares (1995-1996)

## Thailand

- Conceptual master plan for Thai-Singapore 21 Industrial Estate - 1,547 hectares (1997-ongoing)

## Yemen

- Master planning and feasibility study of the Aden Industrial and Warehousing Estate in Aden, Yemen (1999-ongoing)

## Singapore

JTCC has more than three decades of experience in transforming the industrial landscape and facilities of Singapore, and has continued to build upon the group's core competence in developing premier grade industrial infrastructure. JTCC is the principal developer and manager of more than 33 industrial estates in Singapore, including Jurong Industrial Estate, with an area of over 7,000 hectares.

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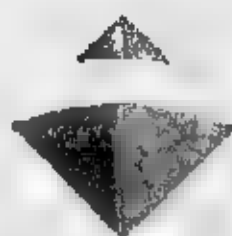


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<b>ARCHITECTS</b> PAT Land Survey/ P&T House /Bldg Plan/Permit T-7282603	<b>HOUSE &amp; LOT</b> 55m² 681 2457 / 412-1825	<b>LOT</b> A-847 Dart Pate 7401083	<b>CONDO/TOWNHOMES/APT</b> No Down Payment Pre-Selling/Ready 36% D.P. 10 Megamall Shangri-La Call 639-4035 / 8919-2602/31 Andy	<b>FARM/AGRI</b> Abad Santos 12T 7616319	<b>BOOK &amp; BOARD</b> FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT 8963461 loc. 25/23	<b>CARS</b> FREE CHECK-UP 8am - 7pm HYUNDAI GENUINE PARTS NEW & JAPAN SURPLUS GUARANTEED SERVICE RUBBERVOLT 35 WEST AV. QC 115 Mind. Ave. QC 9201796	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> <b>GENERATOR FOR SALE</b> ONE (1) UNIT - BRAND NEW PERKINS DIESEL ELECTRIC GENERATOR SET RATED 40A 8KW (506 KVA) STANDBY OUTPUT AT 0.8 PF THREE (3) PHASE 220 VOLTS, 60 HZ, 1800 RPM DRIVEN BY A RADIATOR COOLED PERKINS DIESEL ENGINE MODEL 3008TAG2A EIGHT (8) CYLINDERS, VEE TYPE, TURBOCHARGED, DIRECTLY COUPLED TO A NEWAGE STAMFORD BRUSHLESS ALTERNATOR, COMPLETE WITH STANDARD ACCESSORIES. ONE (1) UNIT - AUTOMATIC TRANSFER SWITCH (ATS), 1600 AMP, THREE (3) PHASE 220 VOLTS, COMPLETE WITH PROGRAMMABLE ELECTRONIC PLATE, CONTROL AND PROTECTION ELECTRICITY GENERATORS, MAGNETOTHERMIC SWITCH 3-POLE. PLEASE INQUIRE OR CALL AT TEL. NOS. 751- 7962 OR 83 LOOK FOR MS. SALLY	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b>
<b>PERSONAL</b> MK HSE PLAN 8916-3346363	<b>HOUSE &amp; LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CONDO/TOWNHOMES/APT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>FARM/AGRI</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>BOOK &amp; BOARD</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CARS</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457
<b>CONSTRUCTION/DESIGN</b> MK HSE PLAN 8916-3346363	<b>HOUSE &amp; LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CONDO/TOWNHOMES/APT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>FARM/AGRI</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>BOOK &amp; BOARD</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CARS</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457
<b>BE SLIM 2443937</b> Slimming Program 521-9683	<b>HOUSE &amp; LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CONDO/TOWNHOMES/APT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>FARM/AGRI</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>BOOK &amp; BOARD</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CARS</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457
<b>LEGAL</b> MARRIAGE ANNULMENT Professional Consultant 632-4333 • 521 2677	<b>HOUSE &amp; LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CONDO/TOWNHOMES/APT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>FARM/AGRI</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>BOOK &amp; BOARD</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CARS</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457
<b>MASSAGE</b> ASK JAMES M/F 24 HRS SERVICES Ask DJ 0919-5973709 (NW) Escort Masseuse Vinz 85 3492 H-H-M-S MALE 7314018 Male #16 Palanan 7320659 Male Masseuse 4101234 *SPICEBOYS INT'L* HOTLINE 5758150 UNWIND M/F Mkt 7520437 VIP M/F-83/2373 09193591721	<b>HOUSE &amp; LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CONDO/TOWNHOMES/APT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>FARM/AGRI</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>BOOK &amp; BOARD</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CARS</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457
<b>REFLEXOLOGY</b> 24 HR Zoren/09173849954 Reflex Lais 0917-9977630 Reflex Vinea 09196658730 Scorpion Massage 4372542	<b>HOUSE &amp; LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CONDO/TOWNHOMES/APT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>FARM/AGRI</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>BOOK &amp; BOARD</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CARS</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457
<b>TUTORIAL LESSONS</b> LA LUZ 5258216/70	<b>HOUSE &amp; LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CONDO/TOWNHOMES/APT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>FARM/AGRI</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>BOOK &amp; BOARD</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CARS</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457
<b>HOUSEHOLD JOBS</b> BEST MAID 7111802/7115039	<b>HOUSE &amp; LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CONDO/TOWNHOMES/APT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>FARM/AGRI</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>BOOK &amp; BOARD</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CARS</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457
<b>Efficient, Trained Maids</b> 873-5271 • 873-5062	<b>HOUSE &amp; LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CONDO/TOWNHOMES/APT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>FARM/AGRI</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>BOOK &amp; BOARD</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CARS</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457
<b>* ANNIVERSARY PROMO *</b> Lowest Office Fee Prov 1 & City All Around	<b>HOUSE &amp; LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CONDO/TOWNHOMES/APT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>FARM/AGRI</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>BOOK &amp; BOARD</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CARS</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457
<b>Maids Cook Yaya H's Bay</b> Avarista Naibonwile Las Pinas 873-7057 • 873-4265 Cebu 873-7057 • 873-7055 Mind & Pamp 873-7055 • 873-7055	<b>HOUSE &amp; LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CONDO/TOWNHOMES/APT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>FARM/AGRI</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>BOOK &amp; BOARD</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CARS</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457
<b>Help Agency 5328376/5321947</b>	<b>HOUSE &amp; LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CONDO/TOWNHOMES/APT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>FARM/AGRI</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>BOOK &amp; BOARD</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CARS</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457
<b>Low Rate Maid 9288862</b>	<b>HOUSE &amp; LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CONDO/TOWNHOMES/APT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>FARM/AGRI</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>BOOK &amp; BOARD</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CARS</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457
<b>Maids Drivers 4142321 4128476</b>	<b>HOUSE &amp; LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CONDO/TOWNHOMES/APT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>FARM/AGRI</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>BOOK &amp; BOARD</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CARS</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457
<b>LIPAT BAHAY</b> L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520 *CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424*	<b>HOUSE &amp; LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CONDO/TOWNHOMES/APT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>FARM/AGRI</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>BOOK &amp; BOARD</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CARS</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457
<b>ELF 7421457</b>	<b>HOUSE &amp; LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CONDO/TOWNHOMES/APT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>FARM/AGRI</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>BOOK &amp; BOARD</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CARS</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457
<b>LBAHAY 7113540</b>	<b>HOUSE &amp; LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CONDO/TOWNHOMES/APT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>FARM/AGRI</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>BOOK &amp; BOARD</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CARS</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457
<b>L-BAHAY 712-16-92</b>	<b>HOUSE &amp; LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CONDO/TOWNHOMES/APT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>FARM/AGRI</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>BOOK &amp; BOARD</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CARS</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457
<b>LIPAT BAHAY 713-087/715-8177</b>	<b>HOUSE &amp; LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CONDO/TOWNHOMES/APT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>FARM/AGRI</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>BOOK &amp; BOARD</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CARS</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; INDUSTRIAL EQUIP</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457
<b>LIPAT BAHAY 824-1227</b>	<b>HOUSE &amp; LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>LOT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>CONDO/TOWNHOMES/APT</b> Ranch Estate 2.554sqm, with house already on lot P2, 7/10sqm 581-1457	<b>FARM/AGRI</b> Ranch				







**IN ITS COMMITMENT** to continuously help marketing practitioners advance their marketing know-how and skills, the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) has an ongoing "Consumer Analysis and Marketing Research Seminar" on July 17, 18 and 20, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., at Ateneo Asian Institute of Management (AIM), Makati City. The seminar features lectures, open forum and in-depth interviews that will thoroughly discuss significant topics on consumer behavior, product studies, marketing analyses, customer satisfaction studies, and other issues of vital interest to marketers. For more information, call the PMA Secretariat at 893-7127, 892-3144 and 8923261 (telefax) or email [pma@philnet.com](mailto:pma@philnet.com)



# 'To stay or not to stay' is programmer's dilemma

By TITA DATU PUANGCO

I AM a 24-year-old software programmer. I am quite content with the challenges and learning opportunities in my current work. I have good friends at work and I generally enjoy life with my family. However, the events in the past months in the country (dirty elections, Abu Sayyaf kidnappings, etc.) have started to bother me. Since there are many chances in my field to work overseas, I wonder whether I am better off working abroad. One side of me wants to contribute my talent to my country but the other part of me is urging me to think of the future and work abroad. Please give me advice.

## Bewildered Programmer

I am sure a lot of our readers can relate to your experience. Clearly, there are no easy answers. This is the age of globalization. As Marshall McLuhan introduced back in the sixties, his prediction of a "global village" is now a reality. One night, while I was watching CNN, I saw the fearful scene of the relatives of hostages beheaded by the Abu Sayyaf. The same footage was seen by my friends in the US and Europe at almost the same time.

Globalization has its benefits as well as its downside. What is good is that the use of technology is encouraging rapid sharing of ideas and attitudes around the

world. People are tending towards greater unity, less of the closed insular thinking and greater openness to other people and cultures. Young people today have greater opportunities to explore the world. You have choices. As one of my children would put it, one can choose "to be a small fish in a big pond or to be a big fish in a small pond." Your choice now is: do you want to contribute as a Filipino to your country or do you want to contribute as a global person to another country?

## Contribution

Two years ago, after graduating from the university, my daughter sought the answer to this same question. On her own, she decided to study and work in a European country. She learned the language in three months and started to become financially independent. She enjoyed plenty of learning opportunities in a job that challenged her creativity. Thanks to the new technologies of e-mail and text messaging, she was never really far from us. She thoroughly enjoyed her stay and took as well the leisurely vacations of people in Europe. Then, towards the end of last year, after the expiration of her contract, she was offered a renewal which she did not accept. She understood in her heart that she belongs

here. She wants to contribute to the development of our country.

Coming back, she realized that many things are not ideal. As a young democracy (just over 50 years old), we are plagued with many problems like poverty, deteriorating quality of education, inadequate public health and, as a consequence, breakdown in peace and order. But instead of bemoaning the situation, she joined up with a group of friends and professionals who have pledged all their Saturdays to teach and help upgrade education in public elementary schools through student tutorials. Instead of feeling helpless, they decided to be

come helpful. They realized that there are no short fixes. Idealism and vision can only come from commitment, sweat and hard work.

## Sufferings

Recently, I received a letter from a Chinese-Filipino who migrated with her parents to Canada. She works in a job that she thinks is way below her talents and abilities. Everyday, as she drives to work, she keeps thinking, "What if I go back to the Philippines?" Her letter made me realize that truly there is no paradise on earth. Wherever you choose

to live or work, life will always be a combination of joys and sufferings. One cannot escape from suffering; it is part and parcel of the human condition.

Our choice is what combination do we want? When one goes on vacation in the United States for example, one cannot help but be impressed by the economic progress of relatives. Everything they want materially is there. And yet what is the trade off? Some couples barely talk to each other or to their children. Couples work ten hours a day with barely enough time to rest their weary bones. Strained relationships and divorces are prevalent.

## Spiritual goods

Here, we have all the problems we cited earlier. But what do we have? Not much in material goods, but we have rich oil wells of spiritual goods. What a blessing for example that in Makati City, there are more than a dozen churches, chapels and buildings where you can catch mass or pay a visit to the Blessed Sacrament on ordinary days and find rest for your soul. Then on weekends, one can spend time with family and friends over lunch or dinner. And of course, the opportunities and initiatives to help the poor and the needy are plentiful.

So in essence, your choice will reflect very much what you value, how you measure success and the lifestyle you want to live. One interesting book on lifestyles or subcultures is "The Cultural Creatives" written by Paul Ray and Sherry Ruth Andersen. The authors talk of three lifestyle streams and subcultures in America: the traditional, the modern and the cultural creative.

## Lifestyle streams

The moderns believe in a technological economy that is reshaping the face of the globe. They are the people who accept the commercialized urban industrial world as the right way to live. Their most important values are: making or having a lot of money, climbing the ladder of success with measurable steps towards goals, looking good or being stylish, having lots of choices, and supporting economic and technological progress. Usually, they are slaky about time or spiritual life, they believe that they have the right to be entertained by media, they treat the bodies like machines. Either big business or big government knows best.

The traditional, on the other hand, have a general lack of interest in politics. Their key values revolve around men dominating family life and

conservatism.

They believe that their fundamentalist version of religion must be upheld. Country or small town life is more virtuous than big city life. They fend off the intrusive modern world that they do not understand. They generally want black and white categories that offer a feeling of certainty. They look to the past for a comforting way of life.

## Cultural creative

The emerging subculture is the cultural creative. They buy more books and listen to classical radio more than watch television. They are big consumers of arts and culture. They are systems thinkers, patrons of whole process thinking. They buy only what is authentic in the marketplace. They are careful, well informed shoppers who do not buy on impulse, so they have no financial problems. They lead cultural innovations rather than technological ones. They possess pro-environment values and embrace voluntary simplicity and spirituality. They believe relationships are more important than financial materialism and success. They are optimistic about the future and are not cynical about politics. They want to rebuild communities.

Decide which of these lifestyles or subcultures reflect best who you are and what you believe in. Then, using your heart and mind, ask yourself which one will allow you to live your values and give you happiness. Then, you will know whether you want to stay here or live abroad.

## Decision time

If you choose to go abroad to work, then make an informed choice. First, make a listing of all the places where you want to work and live. Then, research on the characteristics of each of these places. Ask your friends or relatives who live in those areas to provide you additional information.



ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BEAVO

Make a list of the things you like best and a list of the things you dislike best. Then, try to match your criteria with the information of the places where you want to work. Choose the top three places you would like to explore. When job offers come your way or if you choose to proactively seek out jobs, then you would have greater certainty of success in finding opportunities in the countries or places where you want to work.

But personally, as a culture creative, I remain optimistic about the Philippines. We hope that the young continue to be steadfast in their beliefs and idealism to face rather than escape the seemingly grim realities of today. We continue to hope that our politicians will espouse a "new politics," rise above their petty self-interest and concern themselves with the common good. At the same time, let us try to influence who and what we can within our sphere of influence so that politics alone does not become the sole driver of the future of this country.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice for problems at work through e-mail to ancillaedc@pacific.net.ph or fax to 892-2902.)

# Psychotherapy skills tame office 'characters'

By BLAIR AGERO

MY exposure in psychiatric clinics has enabled me to understand different extreme personality types. But my shift from the "therapeutic environment" to the corporate world has forced me to utilize almost, if not all, my therapeutic attitudes to the limit. I have been introduced to and dealt with "characters unlimited" in the office, which I found more surprising than the ones in the sanitarium. The saying "fact is stranger than fiction" is true in this case. This is a cliché, but you may find yourselves mingling with similar characters and so I share how I pulled through amidst this office environment.

Here are some of the personality types I encountered:

• **Paranoid**—I had this officemate who "looks over his shoulders" rather too often. He "mimicizes" all documents on the computer screen and manually shreds all of his scratch papers, tearing them to bits and pieces. And all he does are marketing proposals. And they all have templates. I once asked him the reason behind this obsessive-compulsive behavior and he answered me with, "They're confidential." So, what am I, an outsider? Later on, he confessed that he doesn't like others "copying" his work. Yeah right! Like I would want to get a dose of English atrocity.

Dea, with paranoid people like this character in a matter-of-fact way. They usually think you're up to something behind their backs and would misinterpret your genuine interest in the things they do or your offer to help as something else. So, stay distant and yet still professional. And stop looking at their work unless they request you to. The proper attitude in this type: passive-friendliness.

• **Egotistical**—There's this officemate of mine who constantly fishes for compliments from everyone, especially the boss. He thinks his opinion (and his alone) is always correct. He loves to be admired and wanted at a level that might intimidate you. He argues and makes an issue on just about everything to show how smart he is (when actually he isn't). And if you don't agree, he'll project his behavior to you.

People like this character love themselves too much and want to be pampered all the time. If you want to get along with egotistical people, it's easy—just rub their egos a bit. Praise them. But if you want to make them shut up, slight them like making a contrary remark to what they're bragging about and then type it up a bit and say it's the latest research finding. That is sure to stun them even for a moment. If they are stunned, they're probably not as smart as you.

• **"Deadmatic"**—Back in the clinic, I had a co-therapist who comes in, works and leaves at the end of each day never minding the work around him. He doesn't neglect his job, but he doesn't care much about whatever is happening in the clinic either. I made an effort to have lunch with him and he started to open up. The following days after that, I didn't have to use the oxya board.

People like him are almost totally oblivious of their environment and goings-on. Just let them be and you'll go well together. But if you want to really be symbiotic and productive with them, active-friendliness is a sure-fire way to successfully deal with them.

• **"Pabida"**—A supervisor in an office I worked in before was just super! Sometimes I see him in a red and blue sash suit while he fixes something.

He takes in all the credit for a good idea that he just "acole" from a subordinate. He makes almost everyone in that office think he can do everything. Well, maybe he could. But come to think of it...nah! To prevent him from getting credit for my ideas, I had him "note" my ideas on paper before I submitted them to our superior. That was just a polite way of showing that those were my ideas!

He represents the kind of people who are always the "heroes"—or so they think. They are akin to egotistical monsters. Only, they are subtler (now that's an understatement). Just treat them like the heroes they think they are. But if they really are not, then go ahead and bust their bubble. It's perfectly fine. The ideal attitude towards this type: matter-of-fact.

• **Bossy**—I had a graphic artist who was supposed to take orders from me, but I ended up taking orders from him. He asks me questions with a "tone" and always answers mine rudely. But I am not the one to be bullied around. No way! What I did, I "reflected" all his

ghastly behavior back to him with a refined flair. Soon, he was following me.

He is a type that you should be most watchful of. This bossy type could strike you from a distance and leave you drained of energy. They could pinpoint all those little details that would make your ego shrink to microscopic proportions. The proper attitude to people like him: kind-firmness. You could still be kind to them and yet maintain that level of dignity by being firm about your viewpoint. Show them!

• **Underdogs**—There was this other graphic artist in the department who sat staring at his monitor all day, barely speaking. With his carphones almost glued to his ears, he barely utters a word. He just mumbles to himself. He only speaks when the boss or someone asks him questions. He looked very unassuming. I was surprised when I found out that he was an art director for a well-known in-flight airline magazine aside from his previous art directing stints for ad agencies and leading broadsheets.

This person belongs to the almost-antisocial kind. But they may have more up their sleeves than you think. So the general rule is just treat them nice. Who knows, they might be your superior the next minute you turn around. It's a good thing I was nice to that graphic artist from the very beginning.

The office houses a lot of different personalities and characters that go beyond this list. And the attitudes I recommend may or may not work for you. But it all depends on your manner of execution, really. Still, it all boils down to one rule: the golden rule. So, do what you want others to do unto you. It's about time you put that one into practice. Then maybe, just maybe, you'll be on the top of the ladder of success before you even notice.

(Send contributions to Postcards from the Corporate Edge to troyes@inquirer.com.ph.)



ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BEAVO

## POSTCARDS FROM THE CORPORATE EDGE

## She gives...

(From page B12)

support the goals and values of the Deaf Community and share its identity as a group with its distinct interests and needs. If "deaf" connotes disability and helplessness, "Deaf" indicates developing to the full and being empowered.

"I want to help train more Deaf counselors and teachers who will promote the interests of the Deaf," Tanya says. "My vision is to establish a mental health center for the Deaf."

Recently, the Gullaudet University in Washington offered Tanya a two-year master's scholarship in Mental Health Counseling (she did not apply for this scholarship). Gullaudet is the school for the Deaf that is as prestigious as Harvard. Her scholarship at Gullaudet may be a way to this vision.

Her colleagues at St. Benilde hope that if she finishes the two-year course, she will help develop a curriculum

for counseling for the Deaf (St. Benilde offers a Bachelor's degree on Applied Deaf Studies as well as non-degree programs for Deaf students, such as accounting, bookkeeping and sign language).

This remains an "if" because while the scholarship fully covers Tanya's two-year tuition and airfare, she will need funds for board and lodging, books, health insurance and other student fees. Colleagues and friends are raising funds to help Tanya go to Gullaudet. Sponsors so far include Presidential Husband Mike Arroyo, who gifted Tanya with a P100,000 check. More help is still needed.

## Coming to terms

In the early years, there were moments when Tanya rebelled against her shadow. "I felt depressed and blamed my parents for my being deaf," she recalls. "If I were a hearing person, I

could have supported my parents and done a lot of things. My parents told me to just be patient." Her family scrimped on Máng Gil's income as a warehouse caretaker so that Tanya and Marie could go to a private school for the Deaf.

In time, Tanya came to terms "with things as they were." In fact, given what she has accomplished so far, she has more than made up for her special circumstances.

She has not forgotten her first love though. Tanya's father and sister are mounting an exhibit for her on August 26 at the Enterprise Center along Ayala, Makati. Both are painters who recently received an award of recognition from Dico Chemical. Tanya's paintings will be part of the show.

(You can e-mail Tanya at deguzman@cab.dau.edu.ph and mtanya777@yahoo.com, or through telephone number 9218521 c/o Ms Mariñez.)

## People at Work Live! Seminar Series returns



AQUINO

DUE to insistent public demand, the Philippine Daily Inquirer will be conducting a second run of the People at Work Live! Seminar Series this August.

The first run of this seminar series, which was held last May 29 to 31, 2001, was organized in celebration of the first year anniversary of the People at Work subsection of the Business section. People at Work writers Moje Ramos Aquino,

CECILIA

Ernie Cecilia and consultants from the Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting conducted the seminars. Due to the enthusiastic public response, not all who registered for the seminar could be accommodated at the venue. Thus, a second run will be conducted.

The seminar topics for the second run are: Assertiveness in Communication, Negotiating Your Way to Success and Achieving Your Personal Vision in Troubled Times.

PUANGCO

The resource speakers are: Moje Ramos Aquino, Recipes for Learning columnist, Ernie Cecilia, Skills Toolbox writer, and Tita Datu Puangco, Advice for the Anxious Person at Work columnist.

For further information, e-mail peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph or call People at Work section at 897-8808 local 554.

## Procrastination distorts your future

SOMEDAY. One day. If. Tomorrow. In the future. Next time. Bahala na. May bukas pa. Saka na. When you often use these words in your life, then you are habitually wasting your time. This time waster is commonly known as procrastination. Procrastination is postponing for the future what you can do now.

It is also symptomatic of a lack of direction and planning in your life. It signals that you have no clear priorities and that you are less than determined and committed to whatever you are doing now. When you postpone doing something, more often than not, it never gets done.

## Nobody's job

This brings to mind a favorite poster of my former training assistant, Karen Castro, entitled "That's not my job." It goes:

"This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry with that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done."

Karen is now in Ilacos Norte and is happily managing and teaching at her pre-school. Without giving it a second thought, she followed her heart and went home to her family. To this day I've not removed the poster from my office to serve as a reminder when I get the tendency to postpone doing something.



By Moje Ramos-Aquino

When you postpone doing a task no matter how menial, you cramp your style. You push yourself to the wall. You don't give yourself a choice. You put yourself in a box and you limit your mobility. You unduly put pressure on your heart. You put a burden on your mind. Sometimes, you even spend sleepless nights over it. You are lulled into a restless mindset that postponing doing a task will make it less difficult or it will solve itself or simply go away and be forgotten. Wrong.

When you postpone doing a task, it becomes bigger and more difficult to do because you are now running against the nature of time. The postponed task becomes less attractive and more burdensome. You will have the tendency to further postpone it or totally junk it. Whatever good results may come from it is diminished in value because it might have outlived its usefulness.

## Moments of regret

To continue our Workshop on Living Life On Time to Achieve Life Plans, let's have a little exercise. Think back and write down those moments when you were regretful and sad about life. Don't continue reading until you have done this.

I am sure those times of regrets and sadness were caused more by your sine

of omission or postponement rather than by what you did with all honesty and sincerity. Doing something without integrity is also a form of postponement like when you do something for the sake of doing it and not because you really wanted to do it. For example, you are an accountant and you simply do your usual debt and credit entries notwithstanding some doubts in your mind. Then, after submitting your report, you need to spend more time to redo your work.

In your job, to postpone doing something is considered a very bad attitude towards your work. It could derail you from ascending the ladder of success. Nobody wants to work with somebody who does not finish a job.

## Mistakes

It is all right to make mistakes. It is from our mistakes that we learn most. When you do something right, you are overwhelmed by your achievement and do not have the time and energy to pause for some review and reflection. When you make a mistake, you normally analyze what happened and thereby, learn from the experience.

As the saying goes, it is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all. When you kiss the one you love, you run the risk of getting slapped or there is an even chance of getting kissed in return. Try it. Also try giving your boss the pleasant surprise of finishing your work ahead of time. See that daunted expression in his or her face.

(E-mail feedback to Moje.Ramos@Aquino.ZZN.com.)



e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

PEOPLE *at* WORK

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ REGINA GALANG REYES, Subsection Editor

## She gives counsel in a world of silence

BY MANOLITA A. GONZALES

TANYA L. de Guzman was once considered a child least likely to succeed.

At age one, she lost her hearing when she pierced her ear with the pointed handle of a comb. Instead of learning how to say "Mama" or "Dada," Tanya learned hand gestures from her parents, Gil and Arsenia. Both

are Deaf, and so is Tanya's sister Marie, now married to another Deaf. "We also have a deaf dog and a deaf cat," Tanya adds in jest. The de Guzmans were their neighbors' object of pity. "If a fire broke out," they



PHOTO BY RANDY NOBILLOSA

DE Guzman is the only Deaf counselor in the country

said, "this family will never make it."

However, Tanya, now 28, leads a blessed if hectic life. She is a guidance counselor for Deaf students at De La Salle University, College of St. Benilde and is the only Deaf counselor in the country. She has gone to conferences in Australia and Mexico City to "speak" on the plight of Deaf Filipinas and is now in Tokyo, Okagawa and Sapporo, Japan to share more insights on the Filipino Deaf.

## Guidance counselor

As full-time coordinator and counselor at St. Benilde, Tanya handles group counseling and conducts workshops for Deaf students. "Those I've counseled look down on themselves," she explains. "Some are frustrated because they cannot reach out to their hearing parents; they feel that their parents do not understand them. Because of family problems or broken families, others develop negative attitudes, become



## CAREERTales

stubborn and hang out with gangs. Some are confused about their sexual identity. One slashed his wrist but survived."

She continues, "I tell my deaf students to continue analyzing and understanding themselves to improve their self-esteem. We have to help them understand what they're going through and help them have a deeper understanding of the Deaf culture."

## Painting

Tanya had wanted to be a successful painter. She studied Fine Arts, major in Advertising at the Philippine Polytechnic University, with an interpreter as her teacher. When family resources ran out after a year, she worked her way through college by doing clerical jobs at Goodwill Bookstore and frying burgers at Jollibee.

In 1991, a nun she met while doing volunteer work in church got her as part-time catechist for the Catholic Ministry to Deaf People Inc. It was while teaching religion to Deaf students in public schools that Tanya realized that her fellow Deaf were worse off. The kids would come to her after class to pour out their problems and fears. She listened and tried her best to give them guidance.

Tanya's director at the Catholic Ministry saw her potential, assigned her to its mental health unit as peer counselor and sent her to various seminars on Deaf education and family therapy.

By then, Tanya had finished Fine Arts and found a higher calling. "I set aside my dream of being an artist to focus on the Deaf," she says. "Hardly anyone understands the Deaf. If the hearing have problems, it's twice over for the Deaf because they have to contend not only with the problem itself but also with a very low self-esteem."

## Deaf women's problems

Tanya learned that Deaf women have it worse when in 1998, she went to nine provinces in the Philippines for a survey sponsored by the British Voluntary Service Overseas. The survey results were disturbing. Most of the deaf women respondents said they knew of deaf women being abused or battered. These women were willing victims because they thought it was their fault. More than 60 percent of the respondents said most fathers abused their deaf daughters while most parents kept their deaf daughters at home.

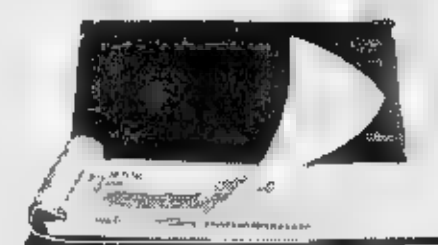
The deaf women respondents indicated that they wanted a better life. They did not think that Deaf women are better off at home than going to work. And yes, they wanted to become effective leaders in their community.

The study moved Tanya and other Deaf advocates to form the Deaf Women's Health and Crisis Center of the Philippines. The center seeks to educate Deaf women to protect themselves from violence and physical abuses, and to help them improve their lives through livelihood, education, employment and awareness.

## Capital D

Tanya hopes that her work will help expand the ranks of the Deaf, with a capital D, which is how members of the Deaf Community prefer to be called. The Deaf are signers (users of sign language); they

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# A stew of reviews, Part I



Get stewed as 2bU! treats you to a potpourri of reviews on the digital animation feature film 'Final Fantasy,' Apple's newest Ibook, 2bU's top 50 websites, as well as the hottest CDs, computer games, books and clothes



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 2001

CHLO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor ■ PAM PASTOR, Chief of Correspondents

## A stew of reviews, Part I



Get stewed as 2bU! treats you to a potpourri of reviews on the digital animation feature film 'Final Fantasy,' Apple's newest Ibook, 2bU's top 50 websites, as well as the hottest CDs, computer games, books and clothes



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# Fresh takes on teen issues

BY MAUI V. REYES  
2bU! Correspondent

No Name Face  
Lifehouse  
Dreamworks

WHO hasn't heard about "that 'Hanging by a Moment'" band? Already having a following in the US for playing sentimental, mushy rock songs and having a babe for a frontman, the band Lifehouse has hit it big with the teenyboppers, slow rock fans and the Billboard Charts ("Hanging by a Moment" turned up at the No. 1 spot 10 weeks after their album's release). Clearly, the band's popularity is an irony next to its album's title, "No Name Face", the songs, however, are a different story.

Lifehouse can be easily dismissed as one of those "insecure, confused poseur" bands. But the truth is, even though "Hanging by a Moment" reminds you of Def Leppard (well, I do, anyway), this band is everything what Creed wanted to be. And that's a pretty hard thing to pull off. Twenty-year-old vocalist and guitarist Jason Wade isn't ashamed to admit that one of his influences is Pearl Jam—and the band has toured with Pearl Jam. Take that, Scott Stapp!

Boasting 12 tracks about confusion, insecurity and love, Lifehouse manages to capture that "gloomy" feel that comes along with the topics the band sings about. That's pretty good. If that's your sort of thing. Acoustic and electric guitars pump the album, but the blood that runs through it is basically what every other twentysomething rock band is made of. What 3 Doors Down begs for, Matchbox 20 whines about, and "Dawson's Creek" kids are going through. Just think of your life right now accompanied with a gloomy soundtrack.

Wade wrote all the songs on "No Name Face," having been into music ever since his parents divorced (he wrote the song "Tryin'" when he was 15 years old). "Sick Cycle Carousel," a song he wrote about his girlfriend, laments where they are in the relationship, whether to hang on or break loose. "Somebody Else's Song" tackles pressure and expectations people can't seem to meet ("I got somebody else's thoughts in my head/I want some of my own"), and "Simon," a slow letter-like song to a friend, is about sympathy felt for a misunderstood person.

Some of the tracks, even though the issues dealt with are overrated, are given a fresh new face by the band. "Breathing" speaks of finding oneself, being "sane again," but not exactly letting go of the world and enjoying exactly where you stand at the moment ("I am hanging on every word you say/And even if you don't want to speak tonight/That's alright with me"). "Tryin'" is admitting your mistakes, and hoping others will, too ("Could you let down your hair and be transparent for awhile/Just a little while to see if you're human after all"). And, of course, the



cut "Everything," a soft-spoken love song that was featured in the hit series "Roswell."

Give props to the people behind the album. Producer Aniello, who's worked with the likes of Kendall Payne and Shannon McNally, would probably be the reason Payne appears on the track "Tryin'." The album was also mixed by Brendan O'Brien, whose résumé includes U2, Rage Against the Machine, Pearl Jam and Stone Temple Pilots. Matt Laug, who also played some drums on Alanis Morissette's first album, lends his skills on "No Name Face," as well.

Sick sentimental saps who are fond of unrequited love and being misunderstood will surely love putting this album on loop. This band sounds like a confused Matchbox 20. Fuel and Pearl Jam rolled into one. Oh, look at that—they've toured with those bands already.

Take off Your Pants and Jacket  
Blink 182  
MCA Universal

SOME people hate them, most people like 'em. Not everyone can stand immaturity on every track of your album. But with the new album, "Take off Your Pants and Jacket," the tiresome exposure of media could have tired these guys out. That and maybe two of them tying the knot (it's not easy being married to a Blink 182 member).

Don't go ditching those Puma sneakers, though—when it comes to Blink 182, their growing up is pretty much slim to none. Just picture a bunch of seventh graders growing into consciousness and realizing what's going on around them, along with the fascination with masturbation, sex with their moms (and, occasionally, dads), first kisses and undying nudity. "Take off Your Pants and Jacket" takes off where "Enema" ended, only this time with more songs that stick to your head like sticky Starburst candy stuck at the top of your mouth when you're out skating.

The way Blink pushes the envelope when it comes to teen issues is amazingly straightforward and direct to the point. How many bands can declare that if kids

are the future, we're the most messed—then states who to point the finger to—"if we're f---ed up/you're to blame?" ("Anthem Part Two"). The band touches on rejection in "Online Songs," a ditty about loving someone who was once theirs but never appreciated them until the end ("And she said/I just forgot you were there").

What makes this album worthy of your week's allowance is to see Blink lament on issues you'd love to see them play live. The trio sounds anything but cheesy when sharing their feelings about going on a first date with a chick they obviously like to sing sick lines about ("When you smile, I melt inside/I'm not worthy for a minute of your time") on "First Date." Then analyzes the complications of dating best friends in "Please Take Me Home" ("Oh no it happened again/She's cool, she's hot, she's my friend/Why did we have to go date?"). Probably the biggest shocker on the album would be "Stay Together for the Kids." Singing about divorce and the pain and hurt felt, Blink proves that it's more than just boogers and other bodily secretions. Almost speaking from Blink's inner child, it's hard to dismiss the song as "another one of those I-hate-the-world" songs. Mark Hoppus and Tom DeLonge actually sing it with genuine pain and hurt in all seriousness. (Try to imagine that.)

Of course, a Blink album won't be a Blink album without a ditty on perversion. "Happy Holidays, You Bastard" is a jokefest that will have you singing it even when Christmas is six months away ("It's Christmas Eve and I've only wrapped two f---in' presents/And I hate, hate, hate your guts").

It's Blink in a whole new light for 38 minutes and 56 glorious seconds. It's jumping in a carnival ride with the three sick muscians, going through their high school days that actually had stories to tell. As "Roller Coaster" goes, "Roller Coaster, favorite ride/Let me kiss you one last time."

Feel free to go jacket anytime during the ride.

Sugar Ray  
Sugar Ray  
Warner Music

PRETTY-BOY Mark McGrath doesn't care what you think about his music. He doesn't care what you think about his looks. He may look like a frontman of a rap-rock band, almost as if the long lost member of dazed rocker Crazytown, but he's more likely to spin a Backstreet Boys album than the latest Linkin Park single.

Sugar Ray's fourth studio album is all about self-blame and women who never gave them a chance. What, there are women who never gave McGrath a chance?

"Sugar Ray" is the album the band has been itching to release since 1997's "Floored." They're balanced with healthy proportions of pop, rock, funk and hip-hop. Think of frat boys sitting around campus with guitars and singing about the hardships of love and teen romance. Then they'd score popularity points when the popular stud comes over and lends them a hand (that would be 311's Nick Hexum, who guests on the track "Stay Out," a summery song customized for radio airplay).

You've got to admit—no matter how many times

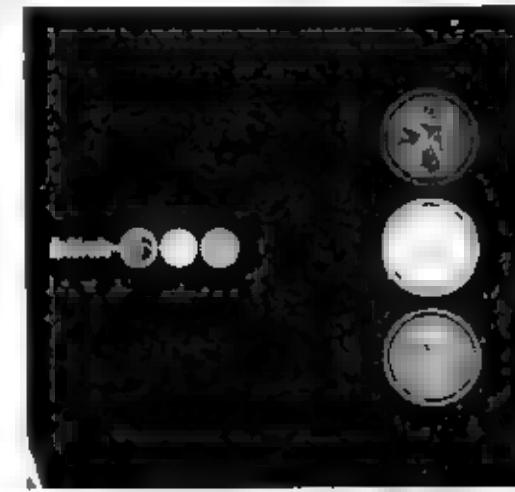


you insist Sugar Ray sucks and how much cooler they were "before they went mainstream," they still come up with catchy melodies that you can't help but hum along to. And even if you are the biggest anti-Sugar Ray person out there, you still find yourself stomping your foot to their songs (provided you have no control over the radio switches in the car). Spinning this album isn't any different. Every track is worthy of the "repeat" button, worthy of a chance of "traffic play" and begging to be played as background music for work or just lounging around. Their breezy take on ska (well, ska to them anyway) in "Words to Me" to their sorry karma-ridden lives on "Waiting" makes this album a notch lower than any of their albums. McGrath also pulls out the puppy-dog look with a sad tune on "Sorry Now" ("I know you're right, you're always right"). Go the sappy romantic way with "Ours," a softest for all those who can relate with girls who dumped them.

Most of the modern sounds on this album could be credited toward producer Don Gilmore, who twiddled knobs on Eve 6 and Lil' albums as well as heavy rockers Linkin Park.

It's nice to see Sugar Ray playing the songs they've always wanted to play. Hoornay for McGrath for fulfilling his 80s New Wave dreams. Besides, it's not uncool to go sing about love when you've got a perfectly chiseled face and spiked hair.

Although for some people, well, they can't wait for this phase to be over.



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# Movie makes game even more fantastic

BY JAYVI ARUTA  
2bU! Correspondent  
University of the Philippines,  
Manila

If you had tickets to the advance screening of one of the most anticipated movies of the year, wouldn't you brag about it? I had, and I did. Thanks to the people at AXN for giving away tickets at the Anime Festival and to 89.9's DJ Crystal.

"Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within" was hyped to the heavens, although the same goes for many stunkers (the smell of mummies, perhaps...) Does it deliver the goods? Well, the answer is not a simple yes or no. The trailer is loaded with eye-popping visuals, and suggests what seems like the generic story of a "girl who has to save the world." Regardless of what I say, this movie must be seen to be believed. I won't be a jerk and give away important plot elements. Feel free to read on. Don't read a synopsis. Even that would spoil a lot of the fun.

This movie is made entirely with computer graphics. So you say you've seen that in "Toy Story" and a couple of bug movies, but this is the first film to feature humans in the wire frame digital mode. The promo pictures were stunning, but the whole package was mind-blowing. Details such as windswept hair and ruffling clothes were quite realistic. On several occasions, I forgot that none of it was real.

Most characters have a certain lack of facial articulation, but hey, no one's perfect. Anyway, there's usually so much going on, you hardly notice. But since we're nitpicking, it's rather funny that the beautiful lead character, Aki Ross, is just about the only one with long hair. Well, maybe that helps add to the effect of her character. Though the real reason probably is that making the hair move is not an easy thing to do in animation. The computer must process all 60,000 strands of hair for each frame with Aki in it.

Game fans, used to managers of creatures, did express a little disappointment over the ghostly, translucent red nasties that are constantly at our heroes' heels. This makes the movie more "kid-friendly" (or is that "parent-friendly"? in terms of the amount of violence. How? Can't tell you that. But try asking an animator to make you a realistic ugly, furry monster and you may get hurt. Hair is hard enough to render on a human head, much less on an entire creature's body. Ever wonder why there was no Beast in the "X-Men" movie? Aaaa...

Some movies made such a big issue of special effects that the pro-



SCIENTIST Aki Ross (voiced by Ming-Na)

ducers forgot to include a story. But when your entire movie is eye candy, you'd have to work in a story somewhere. The plot moves quickly—blink and you may miss something. It does revolve around the central theme of saving the world, and the characters are just about the standard mix for this story. The difference lies in how the twists play out and how each character is given life and personality.

The cast is composed of consummate actors like Ming-Na Wen as Aki, James Woods, Ving Rhames, Steve Buscemi, Donald Sutherland and Alec Baldwin. They all do a stunning job of voicing their characters. Some parts sound a little forced, but that can be ignored. It may be because the dialogue was recorded before the animation was created. That means the actors were doing their thing in an empty sound studio while trying to imagine how the scene would play out.

The upside to this, though, is the actors were videotaped during the recording sessions, so their digital counterparts exhibit their own physical mannerisms. You can literally point to a character and say, "Yup, that's him, all right." Sadly, it's still too hard to pretend that Baldwin's character Grey isn't a pumped-up Ben Affleck.

"Final Fantasy" gamers undoubtedly expect a lot from this movie. For them, it will thankfully be a pleasing experience. Just like in the games, there are few "useless" characters. Even the supporting players like Aki's mentor, Dr. Sid, and Grey's elite team would make you want to know them more. Forget the business side of that. It's a refreshing change to see characters woven into the story as important entities and not just unsympathetic sacrificial lambs.

The "Final Fantasy" series has a

reputation for creating startlingly human stories in the most uncommon of settings. The high-tech futuristic angle is a fresh one, but it just goes to show how little humans can change regardless of place or time. If you



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MILITARY captain Grey Edwards (voiced by Alec Baldwin)

aren't a gamer or sci-fi fan, the science talk may be a little confusing. In the final analysis, the scientific jargon hardly matters.

The best thing about the movie is that it can be appreciated at so many levels. Kids would see a visual spectacle and loads of action. Sci-fi geeks will have plenty to talk about after the show. There's even room to get a little philosophical. Even though the movie maintains the games' spiritual undertones, it refrains from being preachy. One thing's for sure: "Final Fantasy" will have you talking long after you've left the theater. Careful... What you talk about may tell others just how deep a person you are.

## REVIEW



AKI pursues her final fantasy



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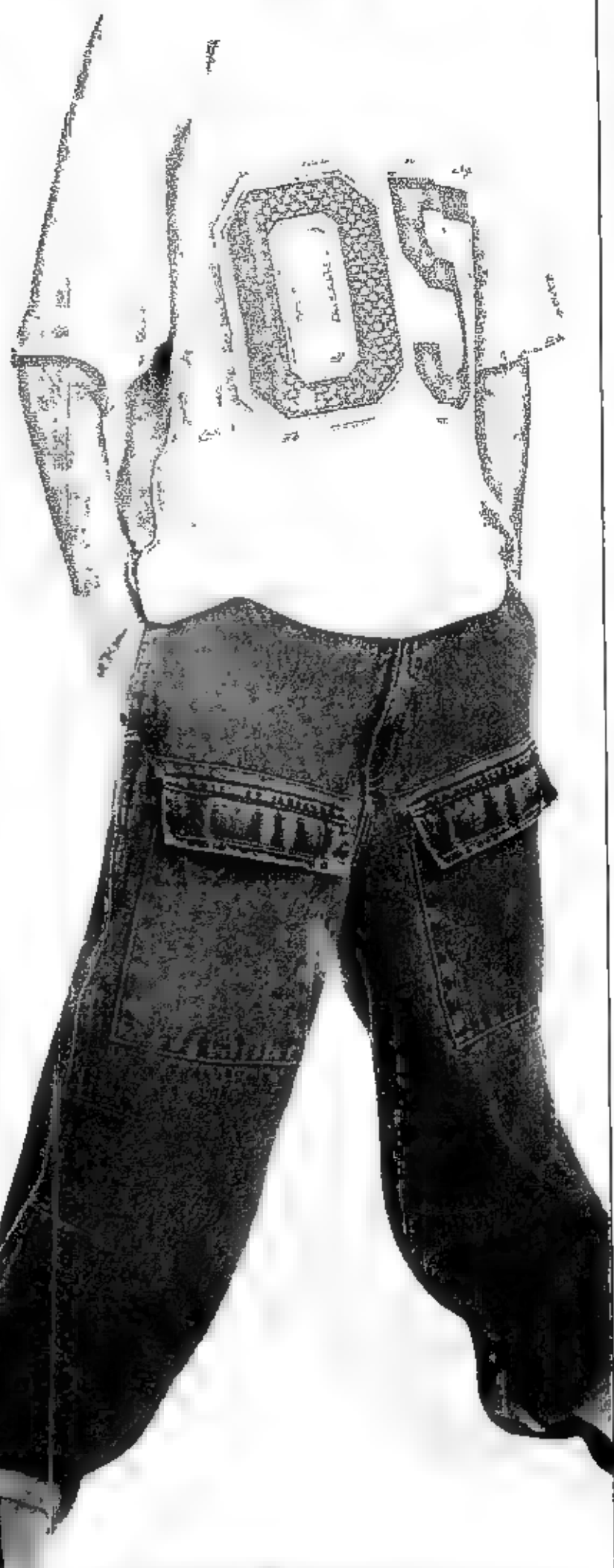
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## Music video (and hair) reviews



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## Seventeen goes back to the '80s

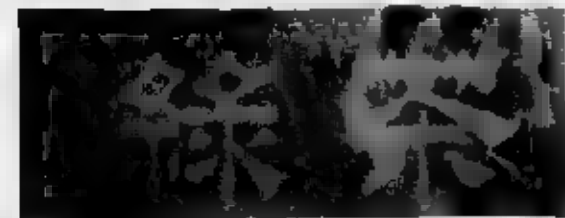
TAKE a trip back into the not-so-distant past when Madonna, Michael Jackson and Cyndi Lauper ruled the charts. A time when cut-off lace gloves, technicolor makeup and wearing your collar up was in. This was the era of "Material Girls" and Don Johnson wannabes. Relive the '80s as Seventeen Philippines celebrates its first year anniversary

and the launching of MTV VJ Donita Rose as Seventeen's first Pinay cover. The Dish at the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell will be transformed into a TV dance studio of the '80s. The place will be filled with mirror balls and running lights, reminiscent of the '80s disco fever. Watch out for MTV Embassy's Tone Wijangco as

he hosts this year's anniversary party! The theme of the one-of-a-kind fashion show revolves around famous movies of the era with Robbie Carmona at the helm. Catch the latest looks in casual and party wear as the hottest young models hit

the runway! A mix of pop music and classic '80s dance hits will be played throughout the night courtesy of Manila's best DJs and live bands such as Barbie's Cradle. Guest celebrities will grace the event and interact with

the attendees. Plus a handful of choice booths featuring free nail painting, henna tattoos, makeovers and so much more! Score your free invites to the Seventeen back-to-the-'80s anniversary party in the July issue of Seventeen Philippines. Come and party as the magazine celebrates a year of fun, fashion and beauty!



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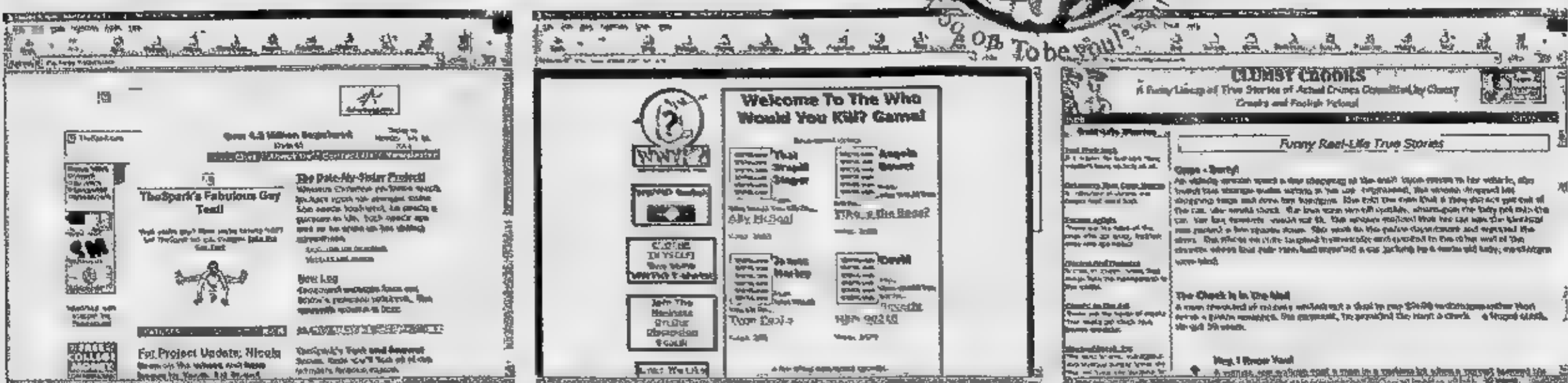
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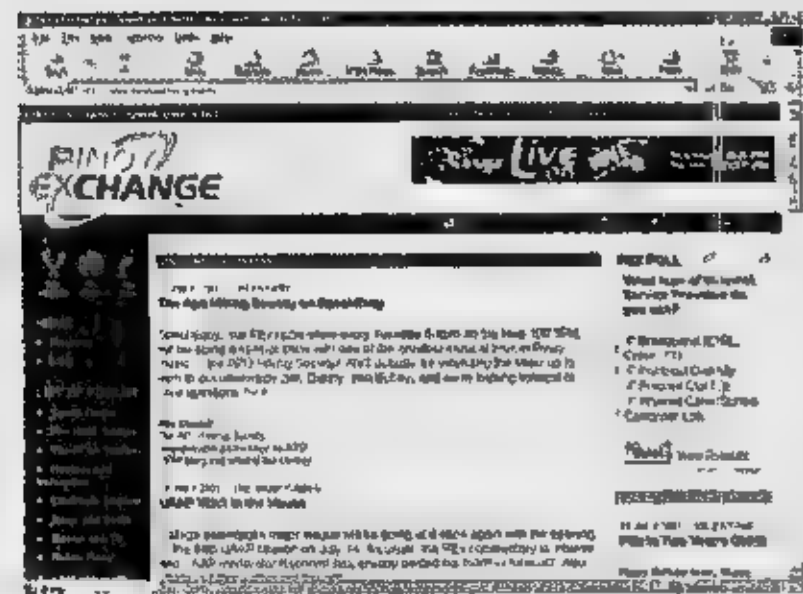
# 2bU!'s top 50 websites

BY PAM PASTOR

**C**ONFESSION time. Most of the people in the 2bU! staff are Netheads. Translation: We surf, surf, surf the World Wide Web 'til our eyes get sore. When we're not cooking up our next issues for you, our browsers usually flash these pages. Check out our favorite websites. They could become yours, too, if they weren't yet.

**Pinoy Exchange**  
[www.pinoyexchange.com](http://www.pinoyexchange.com)

This site is No. 1 on everyone's list. No matter how busy our schedules get, there always seems to be time to post to Pex. This online forum is home to thousands of interesting individuals all hiding behind equally interesting nicknames. Exchange messages with them, ask them questions—24-hour interactivity, it's chat immortalized online. Try to figure out which of the lurking Pexers are your favorite correspondents. One warning, though: Pex is very, very addictive. Very.



**Blogger**  
[www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com)

If you have a homepage and you want an easy way to update your news section or journal, try using a blog (cyber slang for web log). Blogging is Web publishing made easy. No need for messy programming—everything is push button. If you don't have a site and you still want to blog, fret not. Blogger has Blogspot.com for you—a free hosting service. Still confused? Visit the endless list of blogs put up by people around the world.

**Coffee Break Arcade**  
[www.coffeebreakarcade.com](http://www.coffeebreakarcade.com)

This gold mine was Jason's discovery. Coffeebreak arcade.com is every gaming freak's dream come true. Games are divided into categories—cool, classic, casual and the list goes on. 2bU! favorites are "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?," "Don't Kill Kenny!" and "Save the Goldfish!"

**Hot or Not?**  
[www.hotornot.com](http://www.hotornot.com)

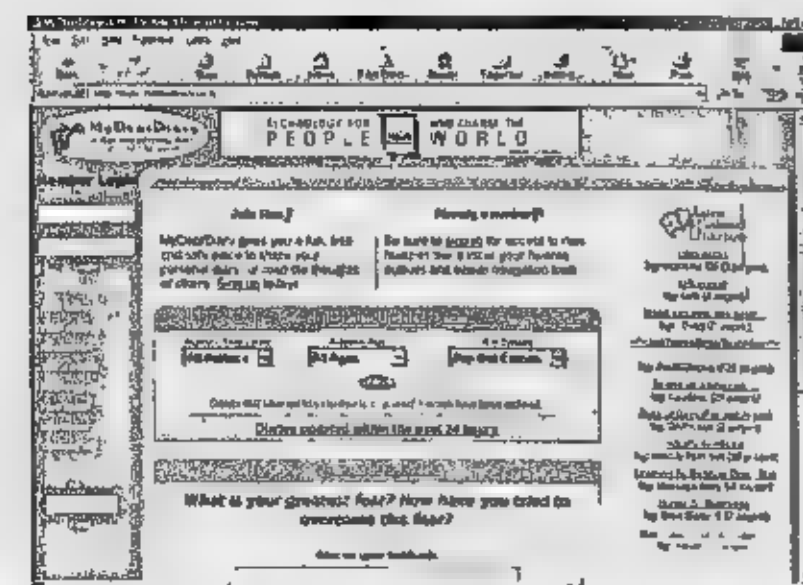
**RateMyFace.com**  
[www.ratemyface.com](http://www.ratemyface.com)

The two sites have very similar goals—to let self-assured users post their photos online and have viewers rate their faces. (Talk about superficiality.) In terms of design and features, though, RateMyFace.com is the hands-down winner. It includes stats of the people in the photos and listings of the top 100 girls and guys. This site is great entertainment for the bored. You'll be hooked.

**The Internet movie database**  
[www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com)

If it's about movies—even classics your parents loved when they were kids—it's here. The plot, reviews, the cast, photos, memorable lines, the script—IMDB has that and more.

**Backstage pass**  
[www.thesmokinggun.com/backstage/backstage.html](http://www.thesmokinggun.com/backstage/backstage.html)



Just how bratty is Christina Aguilera? How many sandwiches do the Backstreet Boys require backstage? What does Britney like to munch on before a concert (but who cares anyway?). This site has the answers.

**download.cnet.com**

Desktop themes, computer games, programs, etc., etc. If it's downloadable, you'll find it here.

**TheSpark.com**  
[www.thespark.com](http://www.thespark.com)

There are some tests (okay, a lot) that we absolutely hate taking. But there is quite a handful that we do voluntarily. These tests allow us to "get to know ourselves better," that is, if you take them that seriously. TheSpark.com hosts these tests, including 2bU!'s favorite, the purity test. Guess who scored a 60?

**Mydeardiary.com**  
[www.mydeardiary.com](http://www.mydeardiary.com)

This is heaven for the zesty. Users can create online diaries and post as often as they want. While others can read and comment on previous diary entries. Diaries may be viewed alphabetically or by age bracket. With hundreds of diaries being updated every minute, you'll never run out of juicy things to read.

**The Blair Witch legend**  
[www.blairwitch.com](http://www.blairwitch.com)

The hype may be over, but this website is still hot. A visit to the domain will remind you why "The Blair Witch Project" was such a hit. (The first one, anyway.)

**www.amazon.com**

Although what could be the most successful online store offers a wide variety of products, Amazon.com is best known for its books. Most of us have a long wish list already (drool, drool). Just wait 'til we get our Eon accounts.

**Sare Seats**  
[sareseats.myayala.com](http://sareseats.myayala.com)

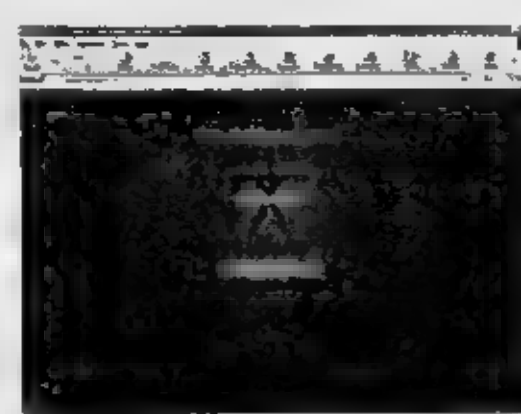
We all know how full Glorietta cinemas can get—especially during weekends. This site allows you to reserve tickets hours before you go to the mall, to make you sure you get good seats. Aaah, the convenience of technology.

**Design is Kinky**  
[www.designiskinky.net](http://www.designiskinky.net)

There's a growing community of graphic designers all over the world. Here's your chance to get to know them, to see the faces behind creativity. Here's a bonus: A lot of them are swoon-worthy.

**Google**  
[www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

**www.yahoo.com**



**Ask Jeeves**  
[www.askjeeves.com](http://www.askjeeves.com)

**Altavista**  
[www.altavista.com](http://www.altavista.com)

Search engines. We'd be lost without them. Yahoo is the all-around winner, Google is best for webpages and for stalking your crushes online. Altavista is a hands-down winner if you're looking for photos.

**Rotten**  
[www.rottentomatoes.com](http://www.rottentomatoes.com)

Okay, no we're grossed out. That doesn't mean we're not morbidly fascinated. If you've got a cast-iron stomach, give this link a shot.

**Harry Potter homepage**  
[www.harrypotter.com](http://www.harrypotter.com)

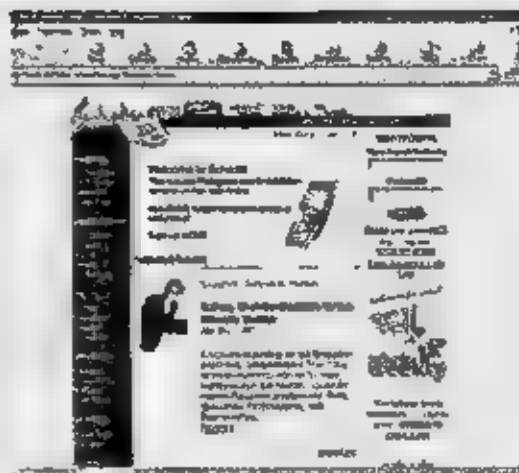
Book updates, watch the movie previews, get sorted, play quidditch. This is the easiest way for a muggle to reach Harry.

**ATP tennis.com**  
[www.atptennis.com](http://www.atptennis.com)

Tennis fans like Tammy and Jason would love visiting this site. Whether it's to analyze the games or ogle the racket bearing, court-trotting hotties is a whole different issue.

**Blue Mountain**  
[www.bluemountain.com](http://www.bluemountain.com)

Electronic cards may not be as cool now as they were eons ago, but if there's a need for one, this site is a good choice. No hassles, no need to sign up. Just pick a card, personalize it, hit a button and off it goes to cyber post land.



**My Own E-mail**  
[www.myownemail.com](http://www.myownemail.com)

Tired of the same old e-mail domain names? This site offers a wide variety, including antisocial.com, ihookmyprozac.com, smileyface.com, imneverwrong.com, youreardork.com, friendsfan.com, etc., etc., etc. The message capacity is nothing to sneeze at, though.

**Center for the easily amused**  
[www.amused.com](http://www.amused.com)

This site is "The ultimate guide to wasting time online." If you're bored and you've got time to spare, this site is a must. It is a portal to endless activities—tests, games, etc., etc., etc. Leave boredomville for good.

**Dumb Crooks**  
[www.dumbcrooks.com](http://www.dumbcrooks.com)

A pervert made the big mistake of lowering his trousers and mooning an old high school acquaintance. He was arrested the same day. These two sites are home to stories like this and more. Not all criminals are sinister after all.

**E! Online**  
[www.eonline.com](http://www.eonline.com)

**Mr Showbiz**  
[mrshowbiz.go.com](http://mrshowbiz.go.com)

Hollywood junkies, these sites are for you. New movies, news, celeb info, juicy gossip—you won't run out of things to absorb. Tammy swears by these websites.

**Scheds.com**  
[www.scheds.com](http://www.scheds.com)

This site allows you to fill in your calendar online. And to make sure you remember, they send a reminder to your mobile phone. How cool is that? While you're at it, get your boyfriend hooked, too. No more excuses for forgetting your anniversary.

**Kiss This Guy**  
[www.kissthisguy.com](http://www.kissthisguy.com)

We're laughed at people who sing the wrong lyrics. This site keeps track of all these mistakes. You may even post your own boo-boos. One girl claims to have been singing the chorus of the Aquira hit this way: "Come on body, let's do poetry," until her boyfriend called her attention.

**Eblots**  
[www.eblots.com](http://www.eblots.com)

You've seen inkblots that some of our favorite actors have tried to interpret for their psychologists. Not it's your turn. Type in what the blot looks like to you and find out what other people think.

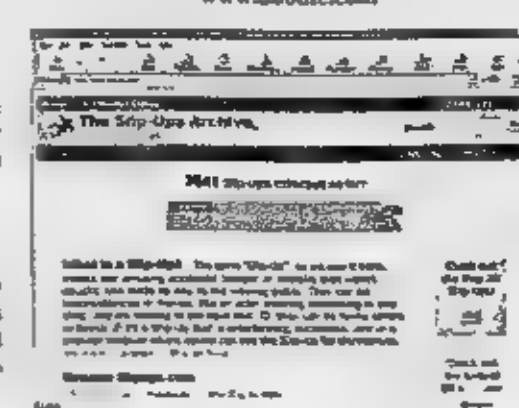
**Who Would You Kill**  
[www.whowouldyoukill.com](http://www.whowouldyoukill.com)

Ever been so annoyed with a TV character that you just wanna suck the life out of him/her? This site offers release. Pick a TV show (there's an endless list—from classics to the newest hits) and choose the character you want to kill. Describe in vivid detail how you'd kill that person. What's even more interesting is reading the posts of previous visitors. Here's a quote: "I will kill Phoebe ('Friends'). Choke her to death with her bleached blonde hair. I hope she doesn't go into one of those songs." Warning: The site contains violence and explicit words (so duh!).

**So You Wanna**  
[www.soyouwanna.com/site/false/bored](http://www.soyouwanna.com/site/false/bored)

If there's absolutely anything you wanna do (from shopping to cooking)—give this site a go. It might just offer direction.

**Doodle.com**  
[www.doodle.com](http://www.doodle.com)



A year ago, I found an officemate giggling uncontrollably in front of her PC. This was the site she was browsing. The little cartoons may be a bit distasteful, but you can't deny one thing: They reek of creativity.

**The Slip-ups**  
[www.slipups.com](http://www.slipups.com)

This site contains a vast collection of mistakes and inconsistencies in movies and TV shows that have been overlooked by editors. This site will have you hooked. I was amazed at how many viewers are. Crack up while watching the bloopers—er, "flaws from the defensive fans," "They did that" "pose!"

**Ibetyouwill**  
[www.ibetyouwill.com](http://www.ibetyouwill.com)

Find out how far people will go for money.

**Drew's Script-o-matic**  
[www.script-o-matic.com](http://www.script-o-matic.com)

**Scriptcrawler**  
[www.scriptcrawler.net](http://www.scriptcrawler.net)

The site names say it all. Find the script of your favorite TV shows and movies in these babies.

**Cybercones**  
[www.cybercones.com](http://www.cybercones.com)

Sweet people, unite. Send your loved ones virtual ice cream cones or sundae. You get to choose the flavors and toppings.

**Mighty Big TV**  
[www.mightybigtv.com](http://www.mightybigtv.com)

If you've missed the last episodes of your favorite shows, this site will tell you what's been happening.

**Pollcaster**  
[www.pollcaster.com](http://www.pollcaster.com)

Answer polls, make your own polls, view poll results, host a poll—check this site out and join the poll frenzy.

**Fanfiction.net**  
[www.fanfiction.net](http://www.fanfiction.net)

Some fans get so bowled over that their creative juices start flowing. Read their work—some of them are pretty good.

**Soda Constructor**  
[www.sodaplay.com/constructor/index.htm](http://www.sodaplay.com/constructor/index.htm)

Little cyber-savvy boys and girls will love this. This site is the home of an online toy you can build with masses, springs and muscles.

**Ebay**  
[www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com)

Bid for things online. Put up your own auctions. Ebay still is the queen of all auction sites.

**Grudge Match**  
[www.grudgematch.com](http://www.grudgematch.com)

If you liked "Celebrity Death Match," you'd like this site. Though minus the violence and clay puppets, this site has the "oomph" of the MTV hit.



**MTV**  
[www.mtv.com](http://www.mtv.com)

**MTV Asia**  
[www.mtv.com](http://www.mtv.com)

Music, activities, contests, celebrities... there really isn't a need for an explanation.

**Rolling Stone**  
[www.rollingstone.com](http://www.rollingstone.com)

The site of the popular magazine holds as much content as the print version. The photos and articles are worth the long uploading wait.

**Tabcrawler.com**  
[www.tabcrawler.com](http://www.tabcrawler.com)

Aspiring musicians, say goodbye to wasting precious minutes online and ending up with zero results. Tabcrawler.com will lead you to the bass tabs, guitar tabs and lyrics of your favorite songs.

**Click the City**  
[www.clickthecity.com](http://www.clickthecity.com)

An online city guide, Click the City includes almost everything—shows, events, shops, restaurants, bars, resorts, hotels, even cable TV schedules. No wonder this site is a Webby award winner.

There you go. This list ought to keep you preoccupied for hours. Keep track of your bills, though. Happy surfing!





# SARI-SARI

A mecca for gimmick clothes, Sari-Sari has somehow managed to keep its style and identity despite the eclectic mix of clothes.

## Plus points

- The newly opened store in Rockwell. There's a cafe right in the center!
- They offer tasteful accessories.
- A new line consisting of beaded linen blouses and pants in bigger sizes that could be used for formal by moma or sunts
- They accept made to order and for a fee keep reservations for one week.

www.sari-sari.com

## Minus points

- The Glorietta branch is not organized. It can give you a headache.
- No locks in the dressing rooms.
- The shoes can be skidder.

Last words: Looking forward to the Glorietta branch renovation.

# HUMAN

Glorietta, Megamall

With Human, which was introduced by friends, we felt like we had hit gold. The opening of this concept store more than a year ago has definitely lived up the mass scene.

## Plus points

- Milk shampoo? Our eclectic tastes were satisfied.
- They have household items that keep our parents occupied while shopping with us.
- This shop proves that chic need not be expensive.
- They have introduced a shoe line.
- Their school supplies and accessories go beyond the ordinary.
- Colorful sales people are friendly and are obviously encouraged to express their individuality, as shown by their hair and makeup.

## Minus points

- The clothes have taken a nose dive. They had occasional must-have pieces in the past, but now it seems like they've switched to a mass-produced flimsy feel.
- Free size won't fit bigger consumers.

Last words: We need more of those P100 shopping bags.

# "U"

4/F Rustan's Makati

Having been open for just over a month, "U" already has a growing following of young trend-crazy teenagers.

## Plus points

- The shop's silver white and black interiors create a very modern look.
- There are comfortable seats around.
- The dressing rooms are spacious with smart "look-good, feel-good" lighting. Our normally shallow complexion looked good even though we didn't have anything on our faces!
- The concept is good. They seem to have something for everybody under one roof. The store boasts of a complete line (a mix of foreign and local brands) for every kind of teenager.
- Stuff you purchase is put in a reusable black drawstring bag with the "U" logo stamped in either green or black.
- The mini balcony-cum-smoking area where you can just hang out.
- Purchases made are included in the Frequent Shopper's program.
- Starbucks and the magazine racks.
- They're open 'til 10 on weekdays and Sundays and 12 on Fridays and Saturdays.

## Minus points

- Because of the large area, the place seems a little bare. Maybe it's because they haven't filled up the place yet.
- There's a need for bigger sizes, though. Tammy asks, "So where do I fit in 'U'?"

Last words: We are eagerly waiting for the computers where people can surf and play network games for free.

# KAMISETA

Glorietta and SM Megamall

We discovered Kamiseta in the early '90s at that stage when we were deciding whether we should dress up like kids or teenagers. Kamiseta recognized this dilemma and provided young people with a whole line of clothes that included printed jumpers, stylish colored shirts, shorts, espadrilles, etc. Today, Kamiseta has evolved and has taken a more modern, global approach.

## Plus points:

- The bright lights and spare lines convey a clean and fresh feeling.
- Kamiseta offers the basic must-haves for every girl.
- They subtly incorporate the newest trends into their basic pieces without shocking the typical conservative Filipino consumer.
- The dressing rooms are decently spaced with normal (no tricks here) mirrors strategically placed near the stock room with salespeople waiting outside to assist you. You get to fit five outfits at once and they allow you to fit white pieces.
- They have very comfortable couches. This is very important when shopping with a younger brother who can't relate or a sister who is tired, impatient and frustrated.
- They are starting to produce XL sizes in some styles (mostly pants).
- They offer discount cards to frequent buyers.
- Despite the mass production they have managed to uphold the quality of their

## Minus points

Products are mass-produced so there is a danger of you running into someone wearing the same outfit. Note to shoppers: Never buy a complete outfit in one store. Learn to mix and match. The clothes are a bit expensive.

Last words: They should have a men's line which I'm sure would be a certified hit.

PAGE DESIGN: MRJUNO

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

## Eclectic mix of styles

2BU! goes on a major shopping trip to find out one thing: Which is the best store for you?

BY MARIA REGINA DAVID  
AND ANNE ROSE ELICANO  
2BU! Correspondents

FOR MOST females, shopping sprees are synonymous with one word: Clothes. A trip to the mall is hardly complete without a stop or two at local boutiques to check out the latest in fashion wear. Malls and fashion depots have not left us wanting—entire floors are devoted to a wide array of clothes shops. But what makes one shop different from the next? It can be the ambience or the stylish packaging. It can also be the lifestyle it represent. The limitless range of shops offers an eclectic mix of styles that can satisfy the needs of all the creatures who make up the fashion spectrum. Whether grunge, preppy, goth, elegant or retro, there is a store that is custom-made to fit your lifestyle.

E-mail the authors  
at mario  
@lycas.com



# ANONYMOUS

- The inconspicuous "brandlessness" of this store has allowed the consumer to see the products for what they really are.
- The growing number of houseware items is great.
- We love their corduroy jackets for both men and women.
- Salespeople are pleasant and helpful.

Minus points  
Collections are stagnant. Upgrade pattern is very erratic.

# BENCH/HERBENCH

- The price is reasonable.
- They sell snacks that are packaged conveniently and attractively. The chocolate malloons are yummy.
- They hire senior citizens and disabled people.
- They use a variety of new techno-fabrics. Pants infused with Teflon that are water-resistant and make it easier to wipe stains away.
- Discount cards are available.
- Underwear shirts in black or white can be used as normal tops. This is a great buy because of the incredible fit owing to the mix of Lycra and cotton.
- They have a lot of counters.
- They have their own makeup line, including the must-have lip glosses (P89) and the latest cheek tint (P100+).

## Minus points

- The clothes are generic.
- They've run out of lip gloss and cheek tint.

StephB.

# PEOPLE n PEOPLE

Glorietta

This store introduced a new kind of dressing in the Philippines. At first it was annoying to see people wearing the goth/raver look from head to toe in the daytime in the malls, but People n People has started to infuse a wider range of clothes at more affordable prices. Runway fashion commercialized to suit a younger generation.

## Plus points

- People can stay in style without going broke.
- The salespeople know their stocks.
- Their wide array of accessories (that the fashion scene is in dire need of)—actually almost everything in that store—are always up-to-date.
- Discount cards are available for an accumulated worth of purchases.
- Not only are the dressing rooms spacious and well-lit, they come with a built-in bench. This is useful while pulling on that tight pair of pants and can help you avoid precarious balancing acts that could lead to embarrassing in-promptu side shows for the customers outside.

## Minus points

- Inspect every item carefully before buying. The straps on Pam's right People n People sandals are way looser than the straps on the left.

Last words: The latest best buys are silver and gold dangling earrings and mock turtlenecks.

# YRYS

Loud silver aluminum interiors scream at you as you walk into this store. The merchandise on display come in blood red and magenta. Prints you never thought would be accepted by the market five years ago—gingham and table cloth checkers—have turned chic. YRYS has put gaudy in the main stream.

## Plus points

- Output is fast.

## Minus points

- Some of the items have poor lining and stitching, and at that price, some of the clothes are almost disposable.

Last words: If the clothes appear to be too wild for you, be patient. Keep hunting. You might just find a piece that would suit your taste.

## At the Children's Shoes Department



All stitched up and ready to go!



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CHANCE ANSWER (or CHANCE A) send to 2326.Owiz?  
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## JOTTO

Guessing a five-letter word takes  
got to outwit your opponent: the coTo play: Connect to Globe WAP Homepage  
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First minute of playing is  
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Check out the games below

SMB Games

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9

Terror

Terror

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FOOLS

FOOLS

FOOLS

FOOLS

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ANAGRAM

ANAGRAM

ANAGRAM

ANAGRAM

ANAGRAM

THE TIME

THE TIME

THE TIME

THE TIME

THE TIME

Games are provided by

Ug

Arealtime

WWSA

Globe

A satirical look  
at campus existenceABNKKBSNPLAK6?  
By Bob Ong  
Visual Print Enterprises

BY PAM PASTOR

A COUPLE of weeks ago, I decided to indulge in a long-neglected luxury—book shopping. Shocked at how much the prices of books have jacked up and dreading to see how much higher they would go, I started stocking up on books I loved as a kid, for the little boys I will have in the far future. These were the same books my grade school classmates had borrowed and never returned.

Squeaky shopping cart piled with Roald Dahl, Judy Blume and Lois Lowry classics, I circled the bookstore again and again till I felt dizzy. It was during this shopping spree that I first came across the slim green book in the Filipino section.

"ABNKKBSNPLAK6?!" The letters screamed at me from the cover. I almost walked away, dismissing it as another one of those ungrammatical text message joke books. But almost as if it had a life of its own, my right hand reached out and grabbed the book off the shelf. I opened the first page.

"Grade 2. Section 1. Isang araw, buwan ng Hunyo, sa isang public elementary school: Hinati 'yung canteen, 'yung kalahati ng room namin. Siguro mga 40 pupils kami. 39 lang ang upuan, at 30 lang ang ayos. Siyan ang magtityaga sa mga gumugawang na salumpuwit. Isa ang araw-araw na makikipag-Trip to Jerusalem. Ako 'yun."

## REVIEW

Hmm. Interesting. I turned it over. P150. Not bad, when you think about it, since your average children's book is P300.

The green book went straight to my cart.

Back at home, I had to wrestle the book from my 16-year-old brother. Among all the books in my shopping bag, it was the one he found the most interesting. He kept giggling as he read the first few pages.

Finally, I had the book to myself. I started reading—and I never stopped—that is, until I fell asleep. The next day, during my long break in school (and yes, even while in class), I kept reading. I looked like a fool, laughing out loud to the bafflement of the people around me. I didn't care. I was having too much fun.

"ABNKKBSNPLAK6?!" is a collection of anecdotes from the school life of Bob Ong, the author. It is a satirical look at campus existence—from kindergarten to college.

The topic is nothing. It's been under our noses the whole time.

The language is simple and conversational. What makes the book such a hit is that it's reality. The scenes hit so close to home that they seem to jump out of the pages. Anyone—absolutely anyone, from your yaya who only finished first grade to your lolo who became a lawyer—can relate to his stories. Ong's dedication pretty much sums up the target audience of this book: "Para sa: mga guro, mag-aaral, dating mag-aaral, ayaw mag-aaral, drop-out, lack-out, transferee, cross-enrolled at honor students."

It's very, very Filipino.

The book may strike a lot of people as nothing but sheer entertain-

ment. Untrue. Ong cleverly sandwiched very important lessons on our educational system and the people in it between hilarious stories. Readers would have no choice but go on reading because they're already having too much fun. An ingenious way of getting people to listen.

The book is pure genius. I kept wondering to myself, why didn't I think about doing that? Just read your memory cells, put everything down on paper—and voila! You now have a book. Then again, forget that idea. The book wouldn't be the same without Ong's sharp wit.

If you're Filipino, if you want a good laugh, if you've ever set foot in school, if you've heard of school, read the book. You'll find a kindred soul in Ong.

Just one earth-shattering question, what is a Nutri Bun?

Available at Powerbooks, National Bookstore, Bookmark, The Filipino Bookstore, Goodwill Bookstore and Merriam Webster Bookstore

E-mail the author at p-a-m-m-y@gurmail.com

Canned American TV shows  
that make viewing more interestingBY JASON DOPLITO  
2bu! Correspondent

BARRING cable channels, perhaps the most watched television station by teenagers is Studio 23. The reason for this is its program lineup, which caters mostly to young people's taste buds. For example, the station has "Dawson's Creek," a program that features four beautiful boys and girls who can discharge the most highfalutin oratorical lines in the face of their respective heartbreaks. Then there's "Charmed," featuring three young ladies with the power to cast spells, which we can only dream of having. And of course, there's "Will & Grace," the show that presents the goofy experiences of a loveless female and her gay flat mate. Recently, the channel has added more programs clearly catering to the young market. 2bu! gives its readers a rundown of some of them.

## 'Jack &amp; Jill'

This show has been running for quite some time now, and so far, things haven't really moved on. Jacqueline Barrett (Amanda Peet), who's known as Jack, has just moved to New York after dumping her cheating fiancé right at the altar. While fixing up her things in her new apartment, she bumps into David Jillefsky (Ivan Sergei), who's nicknamed Jill, and sparks fly. But there's a hitch, of course. Jill is in a relationship with someone who turns out to be the woman who helped Jack land her job. But then that was before. Now, Jack and Jill are together, not to get a pail of water, but to tread the many conflicts that come their way. For example, Jack has to make a sudden career shift from toy making to photography. Then there's Jill's ex who shows up one time in her apartment. And there are also Jill's two best friends who seem to have no other problems but girls.

At first, the show was quite engaging to watch, but nothing much has been happening since and so I have lost interest. However, considering the Filipino's love for love and relationships, "Jack & Jill" has reaped fans who follow the couple's life on TV. For everyone who's interested in catching up with the series, here's something to consider: Do it fast! The show has already been cancelled in the US and it's official that no second season is coming up. And according to one website, the reason is that the "the ratings for the show were sucking canal water, big-time."

## 'Bette'

This show may not really be for teenagers, but they can enjoy watching it nevertheless. Starring Bette Midler, the show is pretty much a spoof of the star's real-life drama. In the show, she is a singer and actress who has to face the reality that she's getting quite old in a world where Brimley Spears and Christina Aguilera dominate. In the pilot episode, Danny DeVito comes up to her and asks her to be a guest star in his show. Bette agrees, and the next day, Danny announces to the world that she's playing his mother. Bette's husband, daughter and manager go crazy trying to prevent Bette from hearing the news. At the same time, Bette realizes that she needs some "cooping up" to do, and so she goes to a plastic surgeon and exercises to death. At one point, just to prove that she's still cool, the actress does a jazz version of Kid Rock's "Bawidaba."

Definitely, this is one show that shows a lot of promise. It's somewhat an older version of "The Nanny."

Studio 23 has more aces up its sleeves—and we're not talking alone of 'Dawson's Creek'



A LIGHTEARTED romantic comedy about love and career in New York City



'THE OTHERS.' A secret society of gifted people

## 'Young Americans'

Having premiered two Saturdays ago, "Young Americans" is still a bit too new to be judged. But if the second episode is a sign of the things to come, then the show should better spice up its act.

The current center among the characters here is Will Krudski (Rodney Scott), a middle-class guy who gets a scholarship into the revered halls of Rawley Academy, a prestigious New England boarding school. During the premiere, the show showed quite some skin, thanks to some great thinking by the scriptwriters. In Rawley Academy and a nearby private school for girls, the new school year is marked by tradition. Freshmen and women are asked to jump in the lake in their underwear.

Other characters include Scott Calhoun (Mark Famighetti), Bella Banks (Kate Bosworth), Hamilton Fleung (Ian Somerhalder) and Jake Pratt (Katherine Moenig). So far, Will is having problems with his longtime friend, Finn, another local boy. Finn is jealous because Will is forgetting his baseball commitments. Finn also has the impression that Will is closer to Scott, a rich kid who also happens to be Will's roommate.

On the other side of the fence, Will is not only having problems with his baseball, but also with his rowing commitments at Rawley. And he also has gotten sick of Scott, because, in his words, "You feel like you know me, but you really don't," or something like that. On yet another side of a three-sided fence, Scott falls in love with Bella who is out of his league (read: She's not rich). This doesn't spark trouble with Scott, but rather with Bella's dad, who has

preconceived notions about Rawley boys. He thinks they're a bunch of users and society snobs.

Perhaps to add some more dilemma to this already confusing setup, there's a cross-dressing girl, Jake, who kisses Hamilton, who later thinks he's gay when he's really not since Jake is really female. Whew!

Tune in this Saturday to find out what happens next. And oh, this series lasted eight episodes in the US.

## 'The Others'

This TV program has yet to premiere on Studio 23, but I hope that they do get to do that fast. I saw its premiere episode in a private screening and I must say it's absolutely fantastic. Writers and producers for "The Net" and "The X-Files" pooled their talents for this suspense thriller.

Imagine a TV series that is a cross between "The Sixth Sense" and "What Lies Beneath." "The Others" is about individuals who have extrasensory gifts and who use their abilities to help ordinary people (think Spirit Questors). The group is led by famed medium Elmer Greentree (Bill Cobbs). This secret society is trying to recruit Marian Kitt (Julianne Nicholson), who has been having several terrifying experiences with a ghost who died in her dorm room. At one point it showed up at, where else, their bathtub. Later on, they solved a mystery of a dead old man who wanted to give something to his living wife.

The director of this film has a similar style with M. Night Shyamalan ("The Sixth Sense"), making this series more like a movie crammed into an hour.

To Studio 23, please show this series at once!

BETTE Midler stars in her own comedy show.



# LIFESTYLE



## My seven days with the iBook

BY PAM PASTOR

**I**NE look and I was in love. Who can forget that sleek exterior, the white polycarbonate case glistening in the light? I cradled my new baby with utmost care. Yes, I have a new baby—the Apple iBook. Before you start cursing me for my good luck, allow me to bring you (and me) back to reality.

It's not mine. It was lent to me for a week of testing. I will be saying goodbye to the iBook in barely a week. We will be together for seven measly days.

### Day 1

As promised, the iBook was in the car's backseat when Mom picked me up from school that Tuesday night. I kept running my hands over the box. To say that I was excited would be a great understatement. I couldn't wait to get home.

After what seemed like an eternity, I flopped onto the bed and took out everything from the box—the adapter, the CDs, the manual, etc. Then, there it was. Resting in its styrofoam nest was the iBook in all its 500 MHz glory. I opened the laptop and exhaled s-l-o-w-l-y. Wow.

After a few seconds of gaping, I came crashing down to reality.

Turning the iBook on was like venturing to an unknown land. As a loyal Windows nut, I felt completely clueless. No, correct that. I was completely clueless. What to click, what to click, I muttered under my breath. What the hell, here we go, I thought to myself, as I took the OS plunge.

Despite the many differences, figuring out how to use the iBook wasn't all that difficult. Turned out that Apple has created a virtual Microsoft office to service its Windows-trained users. Good for me.

The first thing I opened was the Word for Mac software, which I used to begin typing the first few sentences of this article.

The version I was going to review was the base model with CD-ROM (P78,488) and 64 MB of RAM. More expensive versions come with DVD-ROM players (P87,588), CD-R/CD-RW (P93,788) drives or the DVD-ROM/CD-R/CD-RW drives (P111,888).

The iBook I used was powered by OS 9.1 but the whole package includes a CD for an OS X upgrade. It was also powered for Ethernet and wireless networking use.

My mom, who has always been only mildly interested in computers (another great understatement), curled up next to me and said, "Anak, can I touch it, please?" And she gleefully prodded the keys with her index finger.

My uncle, who lives three floors above us, rushed down for a look, too. His penchant for making home movies made his fascination for iBook's iMovie feature no big surprise.

With this feature, you can edit clips that you've taken with your digital video camera and turn them into movies by adding transitions, animated titles, visual effects and a soundtrack. You can then export the finished project back to your DV camera or turn it into a QuickTime file that you could share with your friends.

Another feature that captured my uncle's fancy was the "speakable" commands, which is something we still have to work on. It was hilarious to see him bellowing at the laptop, "Empty trash!" only to be completely ignored.

When I finally got time alone with my baby, I decided to check out its iTunes feature. I started listening to Chapter 1 of the fourth book in the "Harry Potter" series and the Barenaked Ladies. Although the new iBook has two speakers (the old iBook only had one), the sound could still be a little louder.

After trying out a few other features, I de-

MY SEVEN/p.D4

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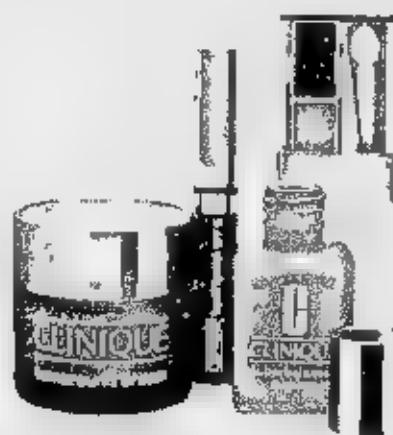
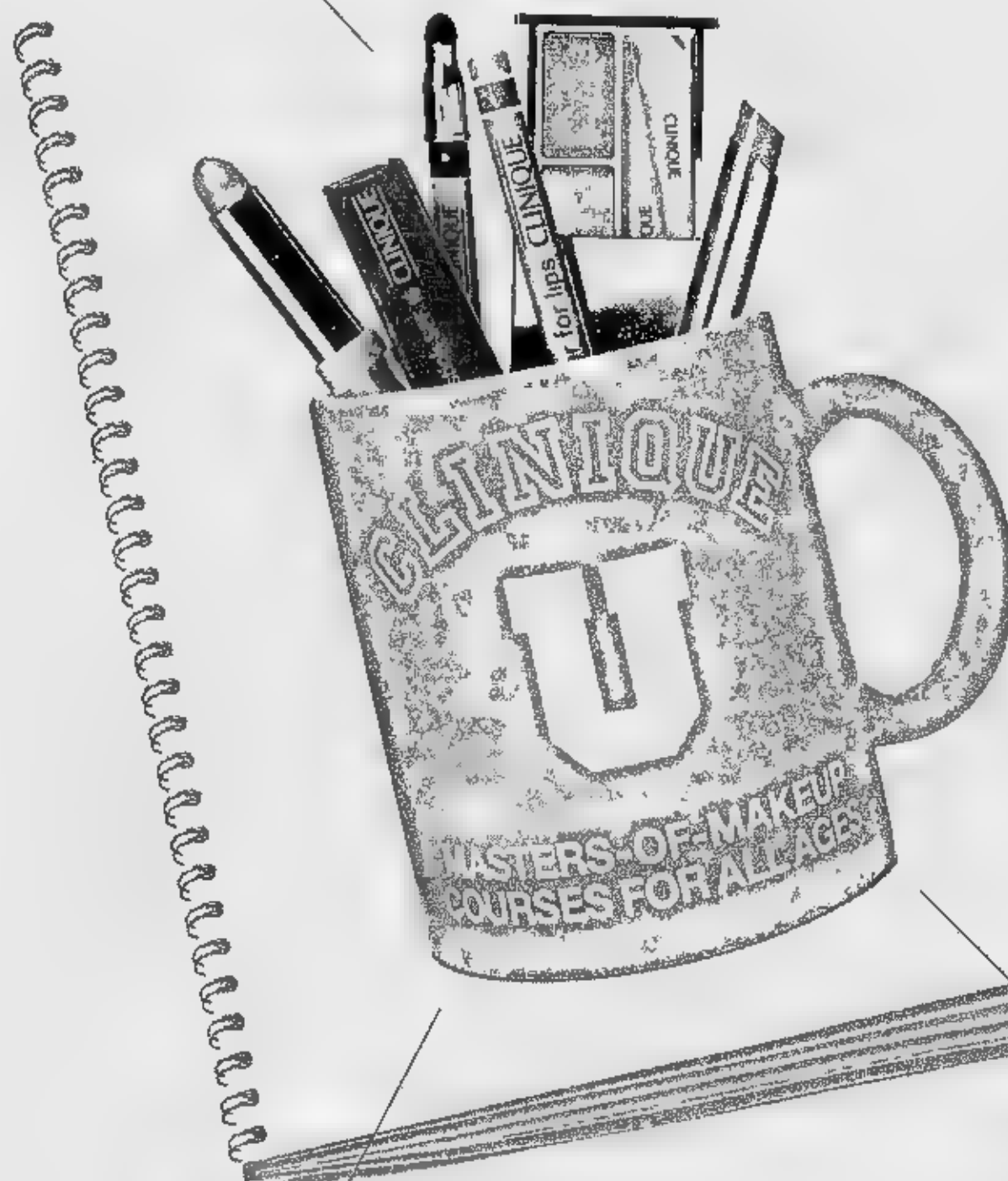
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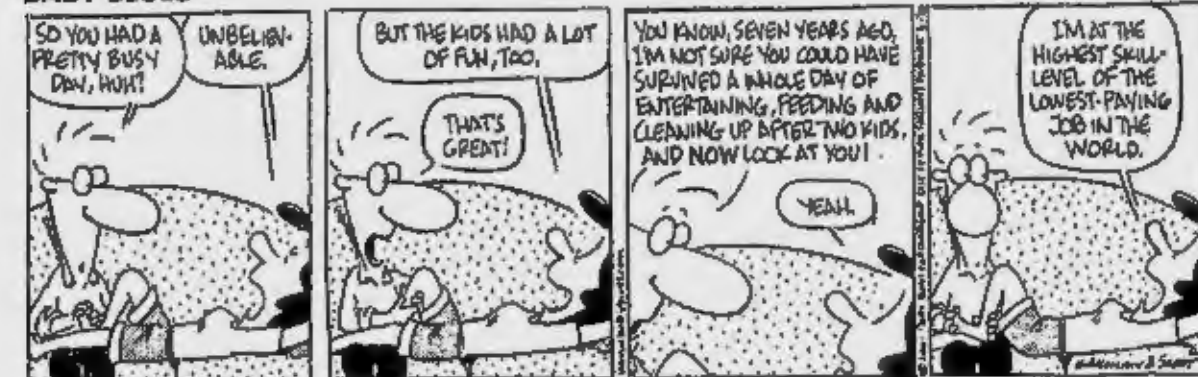
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BY JIM TOOMEY



BABY BLUES

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HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Elizabeth McGovern, Hume Cronyn, John Glenn, Steve Forbes, Vikki Carr  
**Happy Birthday:** Don't let emotions stand in the way of advancement this year. Listen to the advice being offered, but don't be afraid to do your own thing. Separate your personal and professional life if you want to get ahead, and deal with personal issues immediately. The longer you let things go or fester, the harder it will be to reconcile. Your numbers: 10, 21, 29, 33, 38, 42

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Travel will be in your best interests. Getting together with friends and meeting new people will bring valuable information and spark some interesting ideas.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): You may be asked to give more than you're comfortable with to help a friend or relative. If it doesn't feel right, don't make a big deal; just decline diplomatically.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Changes in how you make your living are evident. You can pick up additional skills or information through books, apprenticeships or listening to those with more experience.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Deal with institutions, government agencies or large corporations to complete pending and possibly secret matters. Do not trust co-workers with important or personal information.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Be patient with children or those younger and less experienced. You can help organize fund-raising events that will benefit those in need.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Too much time on your hands could lead to disputes with your mate. Plan a busy day and leave little room for discussion. Talking will only lead to discord.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You need to be challenged. Life has become slightly monotonous. Look at activities that promise to be stimulating and demanding. You can test your strength and endurance and attract companions.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take care of the needs of older family members. Be sure to look carefully at any investments that are presented. Don't let others talk you into spending money you can't afford to part with.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may have to do something special if you want to redeem yourself in the eyes of your lover. Make romantic plans that are sure to entice your mate. Compassion will be a must.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Disagreements with close friends or co-workers will be mentally debilitating. Don't bother arguing; just let them do their own thing and get on with yours.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You need to cut loose. Get together with friends for some competitive physical activities. Try not to be overly generous. Money will slip through your fingers.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Those you live with will be difficult to relate to. Concentrate on impressing colleagues and superiors. Your ideas will be well-received and you'll be given the opportunity to implement them.

**Birthday Baby:** Your versatility gives you the ability to change your mind and direction immediately in all that you pursue. Your great mind and excellent memory will help tremendously in trying to reach your life goals.

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA



PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR



SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA



B1 GANG

BY ATSI11/JEA/FEVG



BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



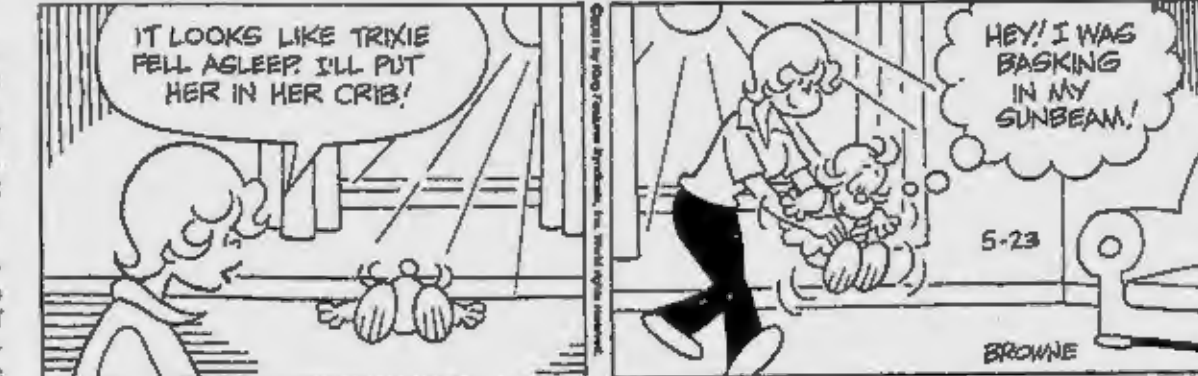
MUTTS

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HI AND LOIS

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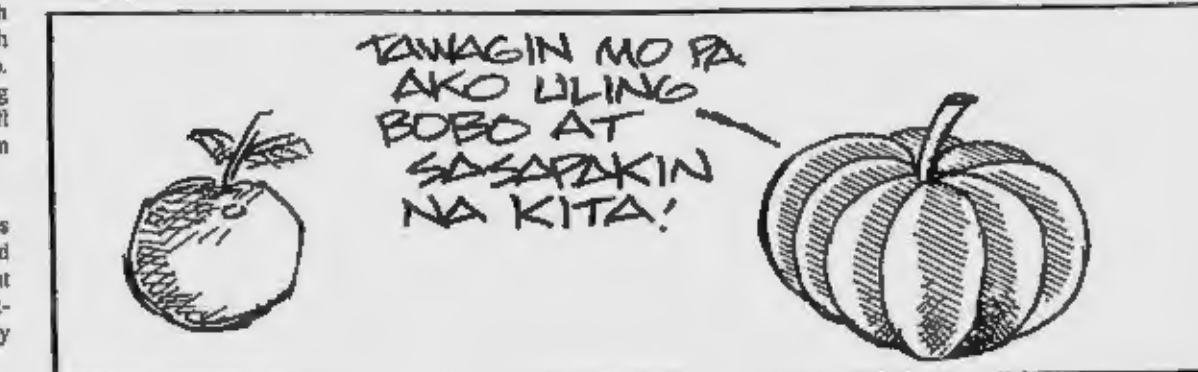
LOVEKNOTS

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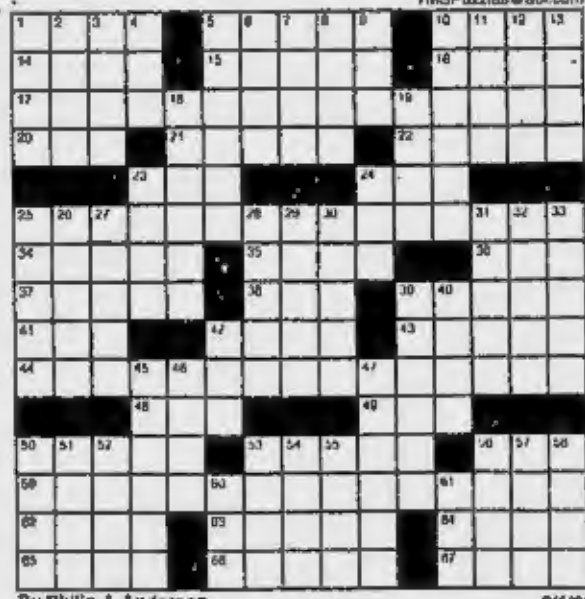
TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



DAILY CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Greek letter
  - Spoke and spoke
  - Grade sch.
  - Light beige
  - Turn inside out
  - Hindu music form
  - Photographer's instruction?
  - Beetle or Blyth
  - Merits
  - Last movement of a sonata
  - Shuttle destination: abbr.
  - Ventilate
  - Banker's instruction?
  - Port near Belfast
  - Period after Mardi Gras
  - Actress Long
  - Clear the tape
  - Neither Rep. nor Dem.
  - Exhausted
  - PC key
  - Oxford or pump
  - Purity
  - Tailor's instruction?
  - Spat
  - First of a court
  - Word before X or PG
  - Filthy money?
  - Existed once
  - Bricklayer's instruction?
  - Streak of ore
  - Actress Dunne
  - matr
  - Paid players, for short
  - Facilitated
  - Track gathering



- DOWN**
- Dugosi or Bartok
  - MBA class
  - Disney sci-fi film
  - Diving shorebird
  - Discuss again
  - Declares
  - Light gas
  - Repeat remnants
  - Ultimate degree
  - Mistakes
  - Mown grass
  - I say!
  - Actress Virginia
  - Examination subject
  - Southernmost Great Lake
  - Country hotels
  - Sternward
  - Dreary
  - Singer Steve
  - Pontificate
  - Yale or Root
  - Mister in Madrid
  - Machu Picchu locale
  - Unable to act
  - Wild dog
  - Devoured
  - Pellic plane
  - Faultless
  - Pen dame

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

MOSS	WALLS	STOP
AMPS	ALIEN	TOTE
DAIS	STENO	ARTE
ERH	GHOST	WRITER
ISLES	BONERS	
PATTED	AMASS	
ALGAE	GUILE	SHE
TAUT	YODEL	WHO
HIM	BENIN	HEAPS
HELIX	REEDIT	
SOCIAL	HARPO	
PHANTOM	LIMB	WET
PIANS	WEARS	ABLE
TREE	EMCEE	DOLE
EARS	ODERS	OXEN



# Double play on glimpse of our past

By VERONICA B. DE LUNA  
AND AILEEN J. LOPEZ  
2bu! Correspondents

A TRIP to the movie house these days does not only mean watching a film. Paying P50 or more does not only entitle you to a movie ticket but a chance to appreciate a highly improved "surround sound system," a clear wide screen, ergonomically designed chairs with convenient cup holders and snacks from theater boys roaming around as well. And when you step out of the cinema, you have the whole mall to enjoy for the rest of the day.

But movie houses are not just to be found in upscale malls. Off-mall movie houses still exist, which feature second-run films at lower-priced tickets. Recently, we decided to check out two "second-run" and "double-run" movie houses in Quiapo.

It was a scorching Tuesday afternoon when we checked out these cinemas on Quezon Boulevard. We zeroed in on a signage of Globe Cinema, which has lost its luster probably due to the emissions from jeepneys speeding by. The movie house is situated in an old building, a stone's throw from Quiapo Church. Street hawkers on sidewalks sell stuff from cellular phone cases to boy band posters. Establishments selling steaming *gato* and *mami* and buy-and-sell booths stand next to the cinema.

The movie house is like a spacious, stylish '50s mansion with wide wooden stairs. We had been standing there for a long time when we heard a woman beside the ticket booth call out to us, "Ano yan?" We explained that we were writing an article on old movie houses, and we asked her if we could feature this one. She didn't answer right away and warily looked at us. Sensing her hesitation, we assured her that we were not from City Hall. Upon hearing this, she readily agreed to answer our questions.

Built in 1956, the cinema was originally owned by Americans who sold it later to some Chinese businessmen. "Dati first-run cinema 'to," she said, looking a little pensive. But with the proliferation of mall theaters, she explained that it became increasingly difficult to keep up with them so the owners resorted to showing second-run movies. They would have to wait several months after the movie's first run before they could show it. So ticket prices were markedly reduced: P30 for balcony and P25 for orchestra. For the price of one ticket, moviegoers also got to see another film, thus the term "double-run."

It was a slow day as only a few people bought tickets on the day of the interview. She laughingly replied, "Hindi, ganyan na lang talaga ngayon." However, when asked how much they usually made in one day, she clammed up, saying she was not allowed to disclose such information, otherwise, she would lose her job.

## Second-run actors

We bought our tickets and proceeded to the balcony section with Manang following closely behind, flashlight in hand. Two big curtains covered the entrance to the balcony. We were greeted by a blast of hot, rancid air from giant electric fans making it almost difficult to breathe. The stench of the comfort



NOT THE TELECOM. Globe Cinema is a stylish '50s mansion with wide wooden stairs.

room was terrible. We sat on the edge of regular folding theater seats upholstered in cracked synthetic leather while clinging to our bulky bags and constantly peering through endless rows of sagging seats with tattered covers. A shirtless guy was jolted in his seat when the flashlight beamed in his direction. The movie house was showing "Phantom of the Opera" and a Pinoy nude flick whose lead star is a has-been heartthrob who has seen better celluloid years. With occasional vertical white lines appearing on the screen (proof that the film had already been shown a few times in first-run cinemas) and the projector clicking behind us, we felt like we were transported to another time when films were only a pastime. Onscreen, Julian Sands was getting a bestial fix from a swarm of rats that were climbing all over him. We fidgeted in our seats. The movie was appropriate to the theater's seedy environment. Meanwhile, our guide was comfortably ensconced in her chair and appeared to have fallen asleep.

The orchestra was a bit cramped, its seats smaller and closer to each other, where more people were seated. At the end of the English language film, the Pinoy flick immediately started without intermission. While it was showing, people were milling about, looking at us, probably wondering what two wide-eyed women were doing—one of them with a camera hanging from her neck—standing awkwardly and looking as though they had been thrown into the lion's den. We worried for a minute that we would be harassed by one of the men milling around. We searched for other women but couldn't find any. We decided to leave.

We passed by the ladies' rest room and decided to check it out, too. Interestingly, it resembled the comfort room of an equally old and legendary Chinese restaurant on Banawe Street in Quezon City, which is still famous for its *manit* and mammoth *siopao*. The large shutters opened to the street outside and the sunlight streaming through it momentarily made you forget that you were inside a movie theater. As an afterthought, we asked Manang if their customers were usually men. The answer was yes. She hastened to add that a couple of years back, when they still had air conditioning, *colegialas* would come accompanied by older men who would later be seen handing out a wad of bills right in the cinema's lobby. "Bale, pang-matrikula na nila 'yon," she explained.

## Surviving the times

Across the street from Globe is Times Theater, built in 1936. Romulo Opaton has worked there as a security guard for 28 years. Living up to its name, the theater has literally survived the times, from "peace time" after World War I to the Japanese occupation, to World War II and the recent political upheavals. Originally owned by Don Ramon Araneta, it was transformed into a garrison for prisoners during the Japanese occupation. "Dati, narra pa yang mga upuan, parang sa simbahan. Pera maliban do'n, wala nang nabago dito," Mang Romulo recalls. He obviously takes pride in having witnessed Times' better years. "Nagku-shooting pa nga si Dolphy dito umag aron," he says. His enthusiasm rubbed off on us so we inspected the wall paneling. It was made of narra, rich and deep brown in color, polished and gleaming with age. It reminded us of vintage wine. Apparently, the building had been spared from the bombings during the war. The marble floor is still intact. We squinted to look for even a tiny crack; there was none. The steel, accordion-style gate blackened by soot and grime has been stripped of its original red paint but it's well-oiled and functioning the way it did more than half a century ago.

Unlike Globe Cinema, Times has managed to maintain its air conditioners. It's also cheaper (P25 for lodge/balcony; P30 for orchestra). Inside, the air was damp and chilly. This time, we didn't have to pay as Mang Romulo was only too happy to show us around. The place was packed; rows and rows of heads were illuminated by a beam of light flickering from the projection room right above us. It was showing "Castaway" and a foreign bold flick, which



PATRONS pick out movies they can watch for only P25.

Forget surround sound, Taters and ergonomics. Two brave 2bu! correspondents check out the grimy cinemas of Quiapo

easily drew an SRO crowd.

We saw a middle-aged couple enter. We learned from Mang Romulo that their customers ranged from entire families to coeds who came in groups. "Syempre, nagtitipid na sila ngayon. Magkano ba ang sine sa SM? Singkwenta, mahal na yan," he explains. Despite the steady stream of customers, Mang Romulo is still not optimistic about the future of the Times theater and other second-run cinemas today. He points to pirated compact discs as the main cause of the movie houses' slow death. With the availability of pirated video cassettes sold at very low prices, some people go to Quiapo only to buy the latest movies on VCD, which they can watch in the comfort of their homes.

We thanked Mang Romulo as we prepared to leave. We looked at Times one last time and saw beyond the grime and soot the grandeur and beauty of its walls, its sweeping staircase and the baluster with its intricate latticework. We have let these grand old movie houses rot and die, carrying with them part of our distinct heritage.



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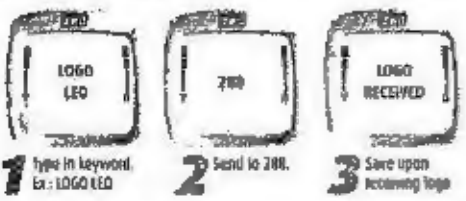
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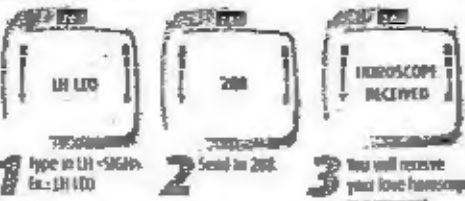
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# My seven days with the iBook

(From page D1)

cided to give it a rest. Seems like switching from Windows to Mac would take a lot of getting used to.

## Day 2

Wanting to get to know my new friend better, I went online and tried to find out everything I could. I went home armed with a thick sheaf of papers full of information on the "iBook," as some people have gotten around to calling it.

When I got to the house, without even changing my clothes, I grabbed the iBook and settled back with it. I love my old desktop with a passion, but being able to bring the laptop to any part of the house is a major bonus for me. That night, I watched old episodes of "Friends" in the living room while playing with the laptop.

Switching from my trusty old mouse to the trackpad was a breeze. In fact, the trackpad seems to be more "obedient" than my old Microsoft friend.

My brother wanted to paw on it—I put my foot down. He settled for borrowing my silver fuse earrings instead.

I am falling more and more in love with the iBook. And, in the United States, a lot of people have, too. I'm not surprised. There's more than enough reason.

## Day 3

The iBook has a perfect theme for me—Grape Mission. My wallpaper is purple, my scrolls are violet, my highlights are lavender—everything is just perfect.

The default resolution—1,204 x 768—might be a bit too small for people with poor eyesight but it was great for me. Oversized fonts and extra large icons just don't seem to go well with the svelte iBook. Thank God for my good eyes.

I tried to create a PowerPoint presentation about my website and I began my school paper on "human interest." The iBook was becoming more and more useful.

## Day 4

Since the iBook has been reputed to be the "backpack" laptop and since its highest selling point is its portability (meaning it can take a few bumps here and there and promises to be impact-resistant), I de-



cided to give it a test. A major one.

Feeling a bit nervous, I got one of my sturdier backpacks—a blue egg-shaped one—and slid the iBook in. Its compact size (11.2" x 9.1" x 1.35") makes it an easy fit. It's only slightly larger than a piece of short bond paper.

Then I began my difficult commute from Manila to Makati—three jeepney rides and one long bus ride, eager to see if we would survive in two pieces.

When they said that the iBook was portable, they weren't kidding. I didn't even notice the extra load on my back since I'm used to lugging around heavy books. The iBook is only 4.9 pounds, 2 pounds lighter than the old model. From the church office to my boyfriend's hand practice, carrying it around was no problem.

The most difficult part of the journey was walking in Quiapo with the knowledge that I was carrying an expensive gadget on my back. But the fact that no one else knew that helped a lot.

The iBook, aside from being portable, features-packed and convenient, is quite a looker, too. Heck, even the adapter looks damn good. It turned heads everywhere. Appeal-wise, it is a hands-down winner. My boyfriend practically ignored me as he fiddled with it.

Its aesthetic qualities have had an effect on me, too. The crisp snowy white may look really good, but it makes the laptop more prone to scratches. I've found myself constantly polishing the case with my handkerchief to avoid any nicks.

That night, I made my first attempt to go online using the iBook. I failed. I had no idea how to configure my prepaid ISP for Mac use. And since it was 3 a.m., calling customer service was unthinkable.

## Day 5

I woke up with one thought in mind—I would go online using the iBook, no matter what it took. I made one attempt. And another. And another. Finally, I decided to ask for help. It was 1 p.m. and my ISP's customer service hotline just kept ringing and ringing. (Yes, Philworld, I'm talking about you.) Ugh. I decided to quit just before I started breaking things. I went back to using my desktop the entire day.

## Day 6

My genius of a cousin, Chrissie, finally figured out how to go online. We used remote access instead of the "Get me on the Internet" link on the desktop. The 56K modem is really fast. I was way impressed.

During our last night together, my baby and I did a lot of exploring. We went halfway around the world. We played games at coffeebreakarcade.com, posted in the threads at pinoyexchange.com, sent e-mail to friends, researched, watched movie clips and visited websites that usually require ample downloading time. (That was no sweat for the iBook.)

Using QuickTime, I watched Barbie's Cradle's new VCD. The picture was sharp when using the default screen size—not really a big surprise since the iBook "supports millions of colors." But when the screen is maximized, the picture isn't as clear.

When my eyes couldn't take any more strain, I finally gave it a rest. I carefully packed the iBook up, adapter and all, and placed it back in the box, making sure it was ready to be returned.

## Day 7

Before leaving the house, I bid my friend goodbye. When I got home, the iBook was gone.

## Epilogue

The author has gone back to using her desktop PC. Once in a while, though, she still stares out the window, pining for the iBook that was once hers.

E-mail the author at p-a-m-y@gurmail.com.

# Games people play

BY JASON DOPLITO  
2bU! Correspondent

I AM a "computer hoarder," says a dear correspondent. A long queue would have to form behind me before I relinquish my place in front of the PC. I guess my dear colleagues would understand if I were writing an article or anything as important. However, one glance at the computer screen would make them think of pushing me off the chair. And being true to myself, I would have to pass the blame to coffeebreakarcade.com, perhaps the greatest online game site created for people like me.

I discovered this amazing website when I had exhausted the possibilities of Internet usage. There was nothing exciting about chatting anymore. I had seen the same things on my favorite sites over and over again, and um, nudity just wasn't exciting. I typed "online games" under the search engine of Yahoo! and there appeared the amazing site together with others.

The games site is divided into six categories: Classic, Cool, Sports, Shooting, Racing and Casino.

## Classic

Under the Classic lineup, there's "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" Supported by the official site of the famous game show, this game is easy to download and play. Instructions are user-friendly, so there's no need to "phone a friend" with this one. It's a good way to practice one's skill before joining the real deal in the local franchise show. Though the questions tend to lean toward American culture, I think the game is still good enough to spend time.

Other classic games include card games like Solitaires and Hearts, board games like Backgammon and Chess, Pinball, Puzzle and Maze (think Pacman).

The Cool game category can be a bit shallow for my taste, but it's not all nonsense. Take, for example, the game "Don't Kill Kenny," which our 2bU! chief loved so much. Here's the run-down of the game: dear Kenny of "South Park" is under attack by friends who have suddenly gone insane, namely Cartman, Kyle and Stan. The player must help Kenny elude the knives being thrown at him by controlling the mouse. According to the site, you shouldn't kill Kenny because "he is too young to die." A bit stupid, yes, but this game, and others under the category, can generate a few laughs.

If you want a bit more of a challenge, try the Shooting category, which has the Tank Hunter game. The effects of this game are pretty okay as you are given a three-dimensional perspective of your surroundings. Your goal is to complete as many missions as possible by meeting the criteria given by the computer. As the game suggests, you are to hunt down "Super Tanks," which can be mean cheaters at times.



Coffeebreakarcade.com is the Olympics of the worldwide Net

## Shooting bugs

Other games include Bugs (where you shoot, well, bugs), Pinkslip Panic! (where you shoot memos at workers whom you wish to terminate) and Burning Metal 3D (which looks like a promising game, though I haven't played it because it takes ages to download.)

The Sports category is probably my most favorite site probably because of its Tennis game. I discovered it at the height of the Wimbledon tournament, and so I imagined myself as Goran Ivanisevic. If you have the Macromedia Shockwave, this game, as well as the other games supported by Shockwave, is a breeze to download. You are given a choice to play either two players: a male and female. The female (in this game only) moves quite slowly, so it's better to select "male."

The instructions are easy to follow, and once you get the hang of controlling your player, it'll be easy to lose yourself in the game. Here's a bonus: your opponent is no cheater. He's not too hard to engage, but not too easy to beat, either. So that makes the game even more enjoyable.

I've also tried Board'n, in which you take to the streets on your skateboard as you do some stunts while jumping over obstacles. What can I say? I've never completed a course. Perhaps you can try

taking on this one. The Bowling game can be a bit boring and the same goes with the Snowboarder. If you're a fan of football, hockey and basketball, there are specific games for you.

## Racing game

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# Hot Picks!

Take your pick from this week's freshest, choicest downloads for Smart Gold, Smart Buddy, and Talk'n' Text subscribers. Check out this space next week for more ring tones, picture messages and logos from the Hot Picks.

## top ten ring tones

SONG	ARTIST/COMPOSER	KEYWORD
1 SWEET CHILD O' MINE	GUNS 'N' ROSES	TONE SWEETCH
2 LIZARDS ON A STRING	NEW WAVE	TONE RIZARLUV
3 SUBURBIA	PET SHOP BOYS	TONE SUBURB
4 GENE IN A BOTTLE	CHRISTINA AGUILERA	TONE GENE
5 UNDER THE BRIDGE	RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS	TONE UNDER
6 TURNING JAPANESE	VAPORS	TONE TURNIS
7 KOKOMO	BEACH BOYS	TONE KOKOMO
8 TEQUILA	THE CHAMPS	TONE TEQUILA
9 SUPERMAN THEME	LEON KLATSKIN	TONE SUPERMAN
10 BIG PIMP	JAY-Z	TONE BIGPIMP

## new ring tones

SONG	ARTIST/COMPOSER	KEYWORD
1 ALL FOR YOU	JANET JACKSON	TONE ALLFORU
2 AGAINST ALL ODDS	MARIAH CAREY'S WESTLIFE	TONE ALLODDS
3 ALL THE SMALL THINGS	BLINK 182	TONE ALLTHE
4 ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST	QUEEN	TONE ANOTHER
5 BRAND NEW DAY	STING	TONE BRANDNEW
6 BREATHE	PRODIGY	TONE BREATHE
7 DOES REALLY MATTER	JANET JACKSON	TONE DOESM
8 DREAM ON	DEPECHE MODE	TONE DREAM
9 LOVE ROCK 'N' ROLL	JOAN JETT & THE BLACKHEARTS	TONE LOVEPC
10 UPTOWNGRL	BILLY JOEL/WESTLIFE	TONE UPTOWN

## top ten logos



## new logos



## newest picture messages



How to get a ringtone, logo or picture message:



Available for selected Nokia cell phones. P12.00 for every successful download.





# zed Hot Picks!

Take your pick from this week's freshest, choicest downloads for Smart Gold, Smart Buddy, and Talk n' Text subscribers. Check out this space next week for more ring tones, picture messages and logos from the zed Hot Picks.

## top ten ring tones

SONG	ARTIST/COMPOSER	KEYWORD
1. SWEET CHILD O MINE	GUNS 'N' ROSES	TOPE SWEETCH
2. BIZARRE LOVE TRIANGLE	NEW ORDER	TOPE BIZARLUV
3. SUBURBIA	PET SHOP BOYS	TOPE SUBURB
4. GENIE IN A BOTTLE	CHRISTINA AGUILERA	TOPE GENIE
5. UNDER THE BRIDGE	RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS	TOPE UNDERB
6. TURNING JAPANESE	VAPORS	TOPE JAPANIS
7. KOKOMO	BEACH BOYS	TOPE KOKOMO
8. TEQUILA	THE CHAMPS	TOPE TEQUILA
9. SUPERMAN THEME	LEON KLATSKIN	TOPE SUPERMAN
10. BIG PIMPIN	JAY-Z	TOPE BIGPIMPIN

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1. ALL FOR YOU	JANET JACKSON	TOPE ALLFORU
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3. ALL THE SMALL THINGS	QUEEN	TOPE ALLTHE
4. ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST	QUEEN	TOPE ANOBTES
5. BRAND NEW DAY	STING	TOPE BRANDNEW
6. BREATHE	PRODIGY	TOPE BREATHE
7. DOES REALLY MATTER	JANET JACKSON	TOPE DOESMATTER
8. DREAM ON	DEPECHE MODE	TOPE DREAMON
9. I LOVE ROCK 'N' ROLL	JOAN JETT & THE BLACKHEARTS	TOPE ILOVEROCK
10. UPTOWNGIRL	BILLY JOEL/WESTLIFE	TOPE UPTOWN

## top ten logos



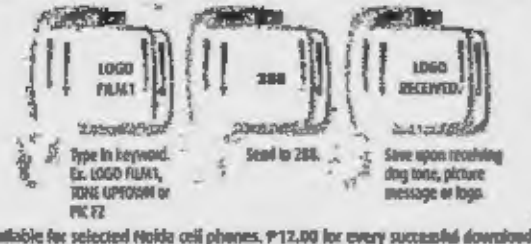
## new logos



## newest picture messages



## How to get a ringtone, logo or picture message:



# My seven days with the iBook

(From page D1)

cided to give it a rest. Seems like switching from Windows to Mac would take a lot of getting used to.

## Day 2

Wanting to get to know my new friend better, I went online and tried to find out everything I could. I went home armed with a thick sheaf of papers full of information on the "iBook," as some people have gotten around to calling it.

When I got to the house, without even changing my clothes, I grabbed the iBook and settled back with it. I love my old desktop with a passion, but being able to bring the laptop to any part of the house is a major bonus for me. That night, I watched old episodes of "Friends" in the living room while playing with the laptop.

Switching from my trusty old mouse to the trackpad was a breeze. In fact, the trackpad seems to be more "obedient" than my old Microsoft friend.

My brother wanted to paw on it—I put my foot down. He settled for borrowing my silver fuse earrings instead.

I am falling more and more in love with the iBook. And, in the United States, a lot of people have, too. I'm not surprised. There's more than enough reason.

## Day 3

The iBook has a perfect theme for me—Grape Mission. My wallpaper is purple, my scrolls are violet, my highlights are lavender—everything is just perfect.

The default resolution—1,204 x 768—might be a bit too small for people with poor eyesight but it was great for me. Oversized fonts and extra large icons just don't seem to go well with the svelte iBook. Thank God for my good eyes.

I tried to create a PowerPoint presentation about my website and I began my school paper on "human interest." The iBook was becoming more and more useful.

## Day 4

Since the iBook has been reputed to be the "backpack" laptop and since its highest selling point is its portability (meaning it can take a few bumps here and there and promises to be impact-resistant), I de-



cided to give it a test. A major one.

Feeling a bit nervous, I got one of my sturdier backpacks—a blue egg-shaped one—and slid the iBook in. Its compact size (11.2" x 9.1" x 1.35") makes it an easy fit. It's only slightly larger than a piece of short bond paper.

Then I began my difficult commute from Manila to Makati—three jeepney rides and one long bus ride, eager to see if we would survive in two pieces.

When they said that the iBook was portable, they weren't kidding. I didn't even notice the extra load on my back since I'm used to lugging around heavy books. The iBook is only 4.9 pounds, 2 pounds lighter than the old model. From the church office to my boyfriend's band practice, carrying it around was no problem.

The most difficult part of the journey was walking in Quiapo with the knowledge that I was carrying an expensive gadget on my back. But the fact that no one else knew that helped a lot.

The iBook, aside from being portable, features-packed and convenient, is quite a looker, too. Heck, even the adapter looks damn good. It turned heads everywhere. Appeal-wise, it is a hands-down winner. My boyfriend practically ignored me as he fiddled with it.

Its aesthetic qualities have had an effect on me, too. The crisp snowy white may look really good, but it makes the laptop more prone to scratches. I've found myself constantly polishing the case with my handkerchief to avoid any nicks.

That night, I made my first attempt to go online using the iBook. I failed. I had no idea how to configure my prepaid ISP for Mac use. And since it was 3 a.m., calling customer service was unthinkable.

## Day 5

I woke up with one thought in mind—I would go online using the iBook, no matter what it took. I made one attempt. And another. And another. Finally, I decided to ask for help. It was 1 p.m. and my ISP's customer service hotline just kept ringing and ringing. (Yes, Philworld, I'm talking about you.) Ugh. I decided to quit just before I started breaking things. I went back to using my desktop the entire day.

## Day 6

My genius of a cousin, Chrissie, finally figured out how to go online. We used remote access instead of the "Get me on the Internet" link on the desktop. The 56K modem is really fast. I was way impressed.

During our last night together, my baby and I did a lot of exploring. We went halfway around the world. We played games at coffeebreakarcade.com, posted in the threads at pinoy-exchange.com, sent e-mail to friends, researched, watched movie clips and visited websites that usually require ample downloading time. (That was no sweat for the iBook.)

Using QuickTime, I watched Barbie's Cradle's new VCD. The picture was sharp when using the default screen size—not really a big surprise since the iBook "supports millions of colors." But when the screen is maximized, the picture isn't as clear.

When my eyes couldn't take any more strain, I finally gave it a rest. I carefully packed the iBook up, adapter and all, and placed it back in the box, making sure it was ready to be returned.

## Day 7

Before leaving the house, I bid my friend goodbye. When I got home, the iBook was gone.

## Epilogue

The author has gone back to using her desktop PC. Once in a while, though, she still stares out the window, pining for the iBook that was once hers.

E-mail the author at [p-a-m-m-y@urmail.com](mailto:p-a-m-m-y@urmail.com).

# Games people play

BY JASON DOPLITO  
2bU! Correspondent

I AM a "computer hoarder," says a dear correspondent. A long queue would have to form behind me before I relinquish my place in front of the PC. I guess my dear colleagues would understand if I were writing an article or anything as important. However, one glance at the computer screen would make them think of pushing me off the chair. And being true to myself, I would have to pass the blame to coffeebreakarcade.com, perhaps the greatest online game site created for people like me.

I discovered this amazing website when I had exhausted the possibilities of Internet usage. There was nothing exciting about chatting anymore. I had seen the same things on my favorite sites over and over again, and um, nudity just wasn't exciting. I typed "online games" under the search engine of Yahoo! and there appeared the amazing site together with others.

The games site is divided into six categories: Classic, Cool, Sports, Shooting, Racing and Casino.

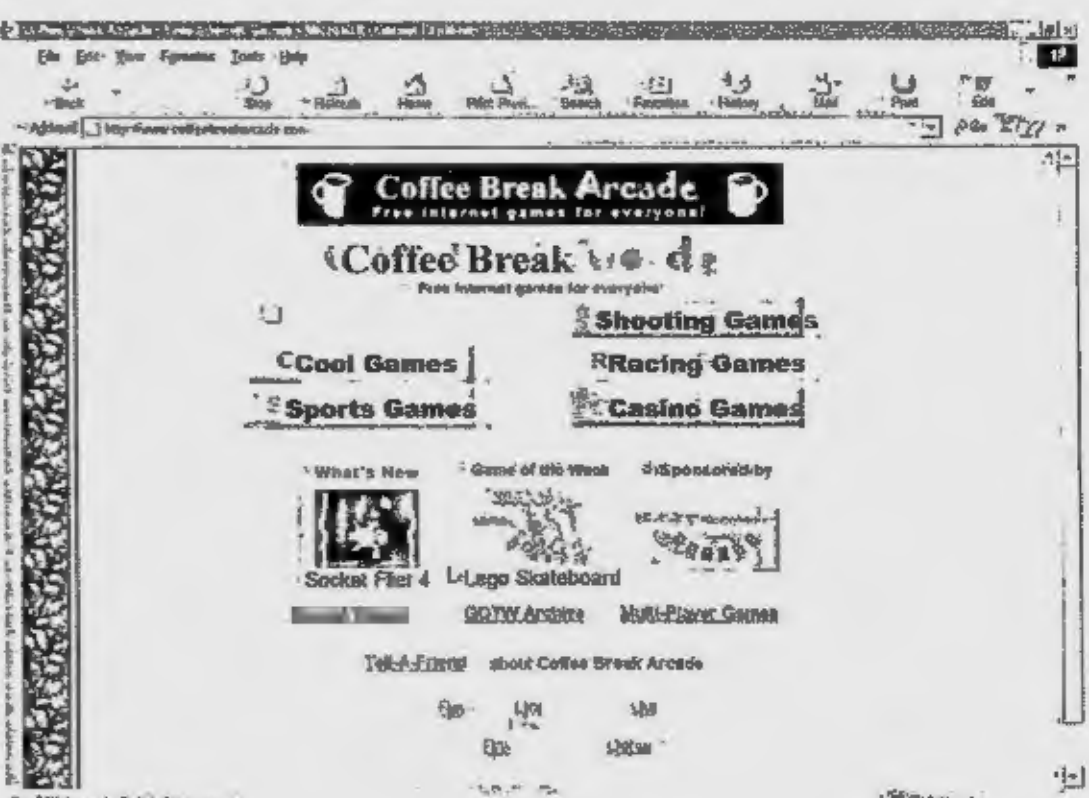
## Classic

Under the Classic lineup, there's "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" Supported by the official site of the famous game show, this game is easy to download and play. Instructions are user-friendly, so there's no need to "phone a friend" with this one. It's a good way to practice one's skill before joining the real deal in the local franchise show. Though the questions tend to lean toward American culture, I think the game is still good enough to spend time.

Other classic games include card games like Solitaires and Hearts, board games like Backgammon and Chess, Pinball, Puzzle and Maze (think Pacman).

The Cool game category can be a bit shallow for my taste, but it's not all nonsense. Take, for example, the game "Don't Kill Kenny," which our 2bU! chief loved so much. Here's the run-down of the game: dear Kenny of "South Park" is under attack by friends who have suddenly gone insane, namely Cartman, Kyle and Stan. The player must help Kenny elude the knives being thrown at him by controlling the mouse. According to the site, you shouldn't kill Kenny because "he is too young to die." A bit stupid, yes, but this game, and others under the category, can generate a few laughs.

If you want a bit more of a challenge, try the Shooting category, which has the Tank Hunter game. The effects of this game are pretty okay as you are given a three-dimensional perspective of your surroundings. Your goal is to complete as many missions as possible by meeting the criteria given by the computer. As the game suggests, you are to hunt down "Super Tanks," which can be mean cheaters at times.



Coffeebreakarcade.com is the Olympics of the worldwide Net

## Shooting bugs

Other games include Bugs (where you shoot, well, bugs), Pinksip Panic! (where you shoot mosquitos at workers whom you wish to terminate) and Burning Metal 3D (which looks like a promising game, though I haven't played it because it takes ages to download.)

The Sports category is probably my most favorite site probably because of its Tennis game. I discovered it at the height of the Wimbledon tournament, and so I imagined myself as Goran Ivanisevic. If you have the Macromedia Shockwave, this game, as well as the other games supported by Shockwave, is a breeze to download. You are given a choice to play either two players: a male and female. The female (in this game only) moves quite slowly, so it's better to select "male."

The instructions are easy to follow, and once you get the hang of controlling your player, it'll be easy to lose yourself in the game. Here's a bonus: your opponent is no cheater. He's not too hard to engage, but not too easy to beat, either. So that makes the game even more enjoyable.

I've also tried Board'n, in which you take to the streets on your skateboard as you do some stunts while jumping over obstacles. What can I say? I've never completed a course. Perhaps you can try

taking on this one. The Bowling game can be a bit boring and the same goes with the Snowboarder. If you're a fan of football, hockey and basketball, there are specific games for you.

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